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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2011

JIEYING LUO BEATS LANGUAGE BARRIER...

Student could speak only Chinese, but in two years she won a place at Cambridge!

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

A CHINESE teenager, who lives in Barry, has won a place at one of Britain's top universities against incredible odds.

Jieying Luo, aged 19, achieved four A* A-Levels, after only arriving in the country in May 2009!

Jieying told The GEM: "I spent an average of 13 hours every day for five weeks before my seven exams in June 2011 in order to get these tough grades."

At the time she was also working at the Oriental Diner in Broad Street over the weekends. Jieying plans to study engineering at Cambridge University.

She said: "I'm currently in my gap year in Gloucestershire working for a global company called Delphi.

"I'm very proud of what I've achieved and hope my success will encourage more young women to study sciences and engineering courses."

LEFT: Jieying Luo with her proud mum, Yanting, at Jesus College, Cambridge.

Last year, while she was studying for her A-Levels, Jieying also won a gold reward in a national maths competition.

Jieying says her inspiration is her mother Yanting, who came over to the UK three years before her.

"My mum had a very very good and comfortable job in China working as a finance controller in a electricity company, but she gave it all up to give me the opportunity to study in the UK."

In 2006, leaving her family and husband Yiwen behind, Yanting moved to Wales.

"She worked as a chef, which involves a lot of hard work and long hours.

"At the time, I was only able to talk to her on the phone once a week and most of the time she was crying.

"She's damaged her hands with burning oil and chopping knives over the last five years.

"It was brave of her to go and live in a country where she had problems communicating.

"I wasn't a hard-working girl until she left China. I then started working hard and achieved a lot during my study years in China.

"I came to the UK in May 2009 and had trouble getting onto an A-Level course because I applied later than local students."

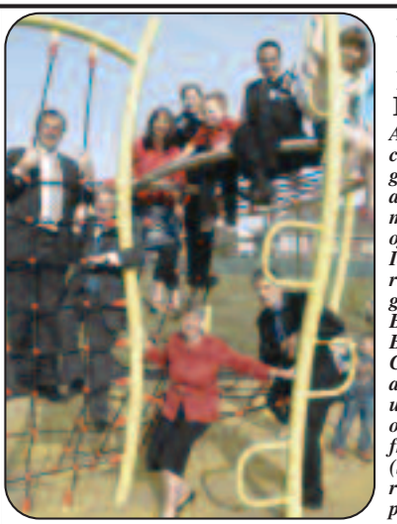
Jieying was eventually accepted by Saint David's Catholic College in Cardiff.

"I had to work very hard because everything was so different – the language, culture and education.

"I've faced a number of obstacles over the last two years, but also worked hard over the weekends to save money for university fees.

"At the beginning of my A-Level course, I needed to write down the translation for most of the words in my text book and was only able to understand about 25 per cent of what the teacher was saying.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)



IOLO PARK – A NEW PLAY AREA FOR BARRY

Age limits for children's playgrounds were set aside for a few moments at the official opening of Iolo Park – the result of a £200,000 grant from the Barry Regeneration Board.

Councillors, police, and other grown-ups were keen to try out the climbing frame (left).

(See page 5 for a report and more photographs.)

'I APOLOGIZE'

Cabinet member withdraws remarks

A Vale Council cabinet member has withdrawn comments he made last month, which drew a storm of criticism in The GEM's letters pages

Conservative councillor Anthony Ernest, who represents the Sully ward, and whose portfolio includes tourism and leisure, had argued in The GEM that Barry did not get a raw financial deal and that some readers were peddling "mistruths and innuendo" in the letters' columns.

Late last week, Coun Ernest contacted The GEM to say he hoped a prominent position could be found for him to apologize for his remarks.

He said: *"I would like to take this opportunity to apologize unreservedly for the comments that I made in my recent letter to The GEM.*

"I would like to make it clear that I will continue to play my part in encouraging as much public and private sector investment as possible in Barry."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

DAY CARE CENTRE MEETING

Next Wednesday (September 28) at 6pm, the Vale Council will hold a full council meeting at the Civic Offices Barry, when Labour members will propose a motion asking for further consideration of changes on the use of Gardenhurst and Rondel House.

They will ask for a discussion on the consultation process and the provision made for the former users of these two day centres for the elderly.

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'FORWARD GEM LETTER TO BANK'

WITH reference to the letter on September 15, by Mr Mike Meredith concerning the decision by the HSBC Bank to dispense with the cash machine inside Cowbridge branch, I fully agree with his views.

These were so well expressed, that I would suggest more customers object by cutting out The GEM article and forwarding it, with a covering letter, to the bank's complaints department as follows: *The Manager, Service Quality Team, HSBC Bank plc, Arlington Business Centre, Millshaw Park Lane, Leeds, LS11 0PP*.

There would then be more likelihood of getting the bank to review the decision for the convenience and security of customers.

Roy Williams, Cowbridge

Better use for the new Welsh school?

WE now have a fine new school for the teaching of Welsh, looking out onto a spacious green playing field at Llantwit Major.

In my view, it would be best used as lecture rooms for all the pupils of Llanilltyd Fawr Comprehensive School - for the teaching of Welsh, as it is found throughout Wales, in our place names, street names – and, quite often, in the names of houses.

Here we see the efforts of enthusiasts for the Welsh language, quite rightly, maintaining it as our heritage, and imparting a linguistic interest to travellers.

This could inspire them to buy a Welsh dictionary, though there are quite a few booklets dealing with Welsh place names.

These enthusiasts might also explain to pupils the meanings of Welsh first names and surnames. The former would greatly extend the choice of names by future parents, for their children.

In my humble opinion, this would be a far happier use for the school than teaching Welsh as a spoken language, when English is the international language now being taught worldwide.

Any teaching of Welsh as a spoken language would soon become dissipated like chaff before the wind.

Heather Montgomery, Llantwit Major

Meeting over park concerns

I HAVE recently received a letter from a constituent, written on behalf of the parents of Bassett Street, Everard Street, and surrounding areas, which states they have concerns about the recent refurbishment of Bassett Park, Barry.

Unfortunately, there is no address supplied to reply to the constituent directly.

The letter states that there is disappointment and dissatisfaction among local residents regarding the refurbishment of Bassett Park.

It would also appear from the letter that the constituent has been in contact with the council, but has been unable to get any satisfaction regarding their questions.

It says that parents and interested parties would be willing to meet me at Bassett Park to discuss a number of issues.

It is, therefore, my intention to be at Bassett Park on Friday, October 7, between 4pm-5pm, where I will be both pleased and happy to meet parents and any others interested parties, to discuss these concerns.

Coun Richard Bertin, (Independent member, Vale Council).

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. LETTERS AND EMAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER. AN EMAIL ADDRESS ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT!! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Why are there no heroines listed on the Cenotaph?

LET US REMEMBER THEM, ALSO

IN a few weeks' time, our council leaders, the Vale AM Jane Hutt and MP Alun Cairns, will be taking part in commemorating the sacrifice of Vale residents during two World Wars and other conflicts.

Those conflicts killed people without discrimination. Why then, does the Cenotaph at Barry Memorial Hall refer only to the men who served – with no mention of women?

In Merthyr Dyfan cemetery, lies the grave of leading aircraftswoman H Burton of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. She died on St Valentine's Day, 1942, aged only 20.

We owe it to her, and many other women who served – not just in the Forces – but in the Land Army, the Forestry Corps, the ARP, the Munitions Factory at Bridgend (30,000 workers) that they should also be remembered in person and on the memorial, too.

Christopher Short, Barry
(ex RAF Regiment)

GEM FOOTNOTE:
Mr Short raises a very interesting point. What do other readers think? Write to us at the address given on this page – but please remember to supply your full contact details, even if responding by email.

No dispenser space

I AGREE with Mike Meredith's letter on the refurbishment of HSBC Cowbridge – the improvements for the disabled have been long overdue.

There has been a cash dispenser inside the branch for more than 15 years, and I have used it regularly – being able to access the machine out of the rain and cold was marvellous.

Like Mr Meredith, I also have been told that I can use other machines in the town, which are all outside, apart from Lloyds. But my bank is HSBC, and I would like to use that one.

I did suggest '*where there is a will, there is a way*' and if they really had the desire, they could easily make space for our old, much-used machine.

I suspect the real reason is more to do with cutting staff numbers. They say – "*your custom is important to us*" Really?!

Alan Brigham, Cowbridge

'Aid record attempt'

THIS year, St John's School, Porthcawl, celebrates its 90th anniversary and to commemorate this, we are trying to break the world record for the longest chain of scarves.

In order to break this record, we need to collect 7,000 scarves, which, in a school of less than 200 pupils is no mean feat.

We would like to ask any of your readers who have a scarf or two that they no longer want, to drop them in or send them to St John's School, Porthcawl, to help us.

If and when we break the record, all scarves will be passed on to various charities to make into blankets for the needy.

Karen Jones, Cowbridge.

AMENITY SITE HARD TO FIND

RECENT letters from local people using the new amenity site at the Atlantic Trading Estate in Barry rightly praise its excellent facilities and helpful staff.

However, it is not easy to find. There may be instructions on how to get there from the old waste site at Hayes Road, but coming from other directions, and unless you know the area extremely well, it is a challenge.

I found it....eventually, but it would have been a good idea to publish a simple map in the local press to herald the opening.

As public relations manager for Bridgend County Borough Council (1996-99) that would have been my first and very inexpensive priority.

Derek Hooper, Barry

Thank you, St Curig for open morning!

MAY I, through the readers' letters page, say thank you to the friends at St Curig's Church, Porthkerry?

I would like thank them for the open morning, which gave me an opportunity to see the church bells being rung; I didn't have the courage to have a go myself, but many did and enjoyed it.

It was great to see the children and young people enjoying the treasure hunt and it was good to have a look at the records of parish baptisms, marriages and burials, going way back in time.

Then there was the cake stall, and the tea coffee, squash biscuits and lots more to enjoy.

Best wishes for the restoration work and the raising of the necessary funds

(Name and address supplied)

The Tall Ships were not to be missed

I WAS fortunate enough to be able to attend the excellent Tall Ships festival at the Waterfront in Barry.

This year's popular event included visits from The Tall Ship *Stavros S Niarchos*, *The Matthew* and the Royal Navy minehunter *HMS Blyth*. There was also music from a range of Welsh artists and a great selection of stalls.

I would like to congratulate Peter Coleman, a trustee of the Tall Ships Youth Trust and the team who staged such a fantastic two-day event at the Waterfront – it really had something to offer everyone.

The Tall Ships Youth Trust, is a charity dedicated to the personal development of young people aged 15-25 through sail training on the Tall Ship vessels.

It was great to hear how young people benefit from these voyages in so many different ways – from learning new skills and increasing self-esteem, to changing lifestyles and become more healthy and active.

I hope that we'll see the Tall Ships returning to Barry Waterfront next year; it's a great event for all to enjoy and one that will certainly be in my calendar, not to be missed.

Congratulations once again to all who helped and took part in the festival.

Alun Cairns, MP for the Vale of Glamorgan

AGE CONCERN THANK YOU

MANY thanks to everyone who took part in Age Concern's sponsored walk to the Llantwit Major beach on Saturday, September 3, and to all who sponsored us.

Thanks to your generosity and kindness, we raised £163. This money is very much appreciated, as it will help to keep our service going.

We had a wonderful morning – even the weather was kind to us. The walk ended with much-deserved tea and cakes at the Llantwit Major office.

If readers need information about Age Concern, please contact Kathryn Coupland on 01446 795549, or call into the office at 1 Commercial Street, Llantwit Major .

Opening hours on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, are between 10am and 1pm.

Kathryn Coupland, (Good Neighbour Scheme Co-ordinator)

The lesson is… BUY BRITISH!

I WAS buying onions in a local supermarket for a friend who is visually impaired.

She had told me she normally buys the three-packs; they were from Spain – price £1.20. I noticed that the loose onions on the lower shelf were from the UK, so I selected three (they weren't packed in any plastic) which came to 49p. They were slightly smaller than the Spanish, but less than half the price.Two extra bonuses: fewer food-miles, no packaging.

Presumably, plenty of people buy the expensive ones, otherwise the supermarket wouldn't stock them.

They were positioned to be picked up easily by a shopper in a hurry. We grumble about the cost of food, but a second's thought could save money.

(Name and address supplied)

Top musicians are heading to Cowbridge for festival

MUSICIANS will soon head for Cowbridge from Germany, Switzerland and Siberia, for the third concert of this year's Cowbridge Music Festival.

On Friday, September 30, in Holy Cross Church, violinist Andrey Baranov, violist Sergey Malov, pianist Miki Aoki and cellist Mary Elliott will be performing for free – in order to make as much money as possible for the charity.

Between them, Sergey and Andrey have been prizewinners at over a dozen major international competitions and are pursuing highly successful solo careers.

After finally receiving their visas to enter the UK, they are looking forward to coming to Wales for the first time to play a programme of virtuoso showpieces and chamber music by Brahms and Schumann.

Admission to the concert, which starts at 7.30pm, is free, and donations will be invited in aid of Leukaemia and Lymphoma research.

More details are available at ***www.cowbridgemusicfestival.co.uk.***

RON O'LEARY
Llanblethian

SERGEY MALOV.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL SEPTEMBER 29)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
22 Thur	02.21	7.3	14.59	7.5
23 Fri	04.04	7.4	16.34	7.8
24 Sat	05.13	8.0	17.42	8.6
25 Sun	06.14	8.8	18.34	9.4
26 Mon	07.04	9.5	19.19	10.2
27 Tues	07.49	10.2	20.06	10.5
28 Wed	08.31	10.6	20.53	10.5
29 Thur	09.13	10.6	21.35	10.8

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Police sealed off the rear of Holton Road.

STREETS ARE CORDONED OFF IN BARRY

RESIDENTS in the Holton Road area of Barry were shocked last Thursday to see streets cordoned off by Police.

Later, a police spokesman issued the following statement: "Officers were responding to reports that a person had been seen earlier in the day with what at the time was believed to be a firearm. Two addresses in the Barry area were involved in the police operation.

"A 29-year-old woman was arrested and questioned by officers, and she has since been bailed to return to a police station in October.

"No firearm has been recovered. Enquiries into the matter are ongoing."

Beach tragedy at Llantwit Major

POLICE have confirmed that a 39-year-old man was found dead on Boverton Beach last Thursday (September 15).

The statement did not confirm his identity, saying only that there were "no suspicious circumstances".

However, it has been widely reported locally that he was Mr Paul Jones, the vice-chairman of the Llantwit Major Chamber of Trade.

Mr Jones operated a number of websites devoted to business, tourism and social events in the Vale.

Photographs of events in the Vale, taken by Mr Jones, were frequently featured in The GEM. We join in offering our deepest sympathy to his family.

The funeral is on Monday, September 26, at 10am in Coychurch Crematorium. Any enquiries should be addressed to WA Brown Funeral Directors (01446 792489).

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MAN FAILED TO NOTIFY POLICE

Sex offender fined for foreign travel breach

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A PENARTH financial advisor has been fined £1,000 at Cardiff Crown Court, for failing to observe a condition when he registered as a sex offender.

Lee Clarke, 65, of Upper Cosmeston Farm, admitted failing to notify of foreign travel when under an order to register as a sex offender.

He had been convicted by Vale Magistrates and committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

Clarke had been convicted at Cardiff Crown Court of 20 offences, including 13 of making indecent photographs of children, four charges of possessing such photographs, and three of possessing extreme pornographic images.

Clarke had been sentenced to 18 months imprisonment, suspended for two years, made subject to a supervision order, and required to register as a sex offender for 10 years.

A requirement of the order, said prosecutor Kayleigh Simmons, was to notify the police of foreign travel within seven days of leaving.

He had been given a copy of the requirement.

On April 1, he left a message saying he was going to Cyprus on April 3 for five days and left the country, without completing the relevant paperwork.

He was spoken to by the police on his return and said he didn't intentionally fail to provide details and had left a message on an answerphone.

He also said he was uncertain of the requirements.

His counsel, Ruth Smith, said: "He accepts what was a technical breach. He should have notified the police within seven days, but he believed it was acceptable to go on his journey."

She added: "It was not a deliberate breach, and he takes his responsibilities seriously. It was not a deliberate flouting of the law. The entire matter caused him great stress."

Judge Isobel Parry said Clarke didn't attempt to conceal his travel plans, but a register had to be taken and treated seriously.

In addition, he was ordered to pay costs of £350 and to carry out 20 hours unpaid work for the community.

Local employer backs call for enterprise one

DOW CORNING has backed Pride in Barry's calls for an 'enterprise zone' to be established in the town and its surrounding area.

A number of the zones have been created in England and campaigners locally are keen to see Barry being able to take advantage of the benfits that 'enterprise status' brings. Incentives to stimulating entrepreneurial activity include lower taxes and discounted business rates.

Dave Ott, the site manager for Dow Corning in Barry, said: "We are committed to our site in Barry and have a strong connection to the community.

"We can see a number of benefits for the region and potential strategic opportunities that would be more likely to occur with the development of an enterprise zone.

"For instance, it would be good to see incentives for developing the brownfield sites in the chemical complex and the docks area."

The chairman of Pride in Barry, Paul Haley said: "This support for an enterprise zone from Dow Corning is in line with the support of the Waterfront Consortium, Associated British Ports and the Vale Council – the major investors and employers in the Vale."

Representations have been made to Huw Lewis, the Welsh regeneration minister to bring a zone to Barry.

Mr Haley has not only emphasised that Wales needs economic zones as a whole, but that if introduced, a 'greater Barry enterprise zone' must be one of them.

***GEM NOTE:** setback for the campaign – see page 7 for details.*

Police appeal after assault

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after an 18-year-old man was assaulted in Broad Street, Barry, between 3am and 3.30am on Sunday, September 11.

They said the victim was struck to the head, causing minor injuries, and the suspect made off on foot along Trinity Street, before getting into a silver Vauxhall Corsa.

During his getaway, he came into collision with a male and a female, which caused them leg and foot injuries.

Police later arrested a 19-year-old man who was on bail pending further enquiries.

Contact South Wales Police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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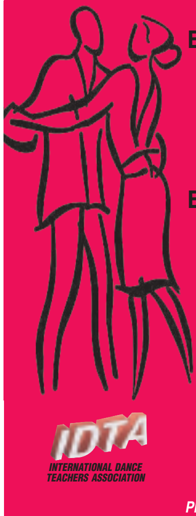
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Do not suffer in silence with your council arrears 'HELP IS AT HAND'

– says local councillor

Report by TIM CHAPMAN

A Vale councillor has urged people who run into problems paying council tax or rent to "seek help early".

Coun Gwyn John told The GEM that there had been an increase in cases of council arrears over the last 12 months.

He explained: "It is so important that if people receive letters from the Vale Council, because they are facing financial problems, that they seek help early.

"What sometimes happens is that they get a letter and ignore it. When another one comes, they don't want to face that either. People sometimes leave it until the last moment before asking for help."

Coun John, of Llantwit Major, said that in one case, he'd been contacted when the bailiffs were about to move in, but that had been avoided.

With the winter ahead, the prospect of rising bills and the current economic squeeze, Coun John said he recognised some people would be faced with awkward financial choices.

"If someone contacts me, I have a confidential discussion with them and then go to the relevant council department to seek ways of dealing with the problem.

"If people don't want to speak to a councillor, they can go to the Citizens' Advice which is very good.

"In fairness to the Vale Council, it doesn't take immediate action."

Coun John said that if a difficulty was flagged up early enough, a solution could often be found.

In one case, where a Vale firm was falling behind on business rates, early intervention had resolved the issue.

He added: "The message I want to get to people is: councillors can help you and point you in the right direction."

Public meeting held over day care centres

More than 50 people braved blustery winds to voice their concerns at a public meeting on September 7 in Penarth about cuts at day-care centres for the elderly in the Vale.

Over recent months, some councillors have expressed anger at changes to the provision of services at Gardenhurst Day Centre in Penarth and Rondel House in Barry.

Couns Janice Birch and Mark Wilson called the meeting, and family carer Sue Phillips spoke about the vital role Gardenhurst Day Centre had played in caring for her 87-year-old mother, who has Alzheimer's.

Sue Phillips said: "The group voted unanimously that day centres are vital.

"Linda Brownhill, manager of the 'Live at Home' scheme, based at Trinity Church, asked for an assurance from the Vale Council that meals would continue to be provided from Gardenhurst for the elderly people who have lunches at Trinity, and for the vulnerable recipients of meals on wheels." (See page 1).

ABOVE: Jim Greenway and Anthony Ernest.

Mayor unveils memorial plaque to Seafarers

A PLAQUE has been unveiled by Penarth Mayor, Coun Anthony Ernest, in memory of Merchant Seafarers who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars, many having sailed from Penarth Docks.

It has been placed on the wall on the Penarth side of the Barrage alongside the landing stage for the water bus, and was the inspiration of former Town Mayor Coun John Birch, who sadly passed away in May 2004.

The Town Mayor, together with Mrs Gaynor Ernest, assisted in the unveiling by Coun John Birch's widow, Janice, herself a town and Vale councillor, and their son Michael.

Others present included Coun Colin Osborne and his wife Ruby, representing the Vale Council, members of the Merchant Navy Association, Penarth Sea Cadets and residents of Penarth who had served, or whose relatives had served, in the Merchant Navy.

Following the unveiling, Coun Ernest said a few words and the Town Mayor's chaplain, the Rev Malcolm Davies, conducted a brief service.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held at West House, during which Mr Jim Greenway, chairman of the Merchant Navy Association's Barry branch, presented the Town Mayor with a shield displaying the Merchant Navy emblem.

Coun Ernest reciprocated with a Town Council hand painted plate.

The Mayor said: "Penarth owes a great deal to those Merchantmen who sailed into very dangerous waters, in order to ensure that food and supplies got through to the United Kingdom; and thus to ensure the survival of millions of people who might well have starved, had it not been for these brave men.

"Today, Penarth has finally remembered the dedication and heroism of those who sailed out of Penarth during the war years, and this memorial is a fitting tribute through which we can all remember them."

'Important for the council to listen'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

He added: *"It is always important that we as a council listen to local people and do everything possible to ensure that Barry is a great place to live and work.*

"It is also vital that we do everything we can to maintain and enhance the town's facilities and amenities, not only for those who live in Barry, but also for the numerous visitors that are enticed to its many special attractions.

"Once again; my apologies."

At the time of the original remarks, The GEM received an avalanche of letters objecting to the remarks. and some calling for his resignation.

Among his critics were Barry Vale councillor Margaret Alexander, who urged him not to drive a wedge between Vale communities.

Coun Alexander welcomed Coun Ernest's latest statement, pointing out "it is a good thing to apologize – common sense has prevailed".

She said: "I was amazed at the offensiveness of the original letter, but glad that he has had second thoughts about the comments."

Coun Alexander said it was a shame that it had taken "a furore" to encourage a retraction, adding : "It is up to the people of Barry as to whether they accept it (the apology)."

Another Barry councillor was less forgiving. Chris Elmore, who represents the Castleland ward on the Vale Council, said: "Although I welcome Coun Ernest's long overdue apology to the people of Barry, after many weeks of no reaction from him at all, I still have grave concerns about the view he holds that Barry does well, compared to the other communities in the Vale.

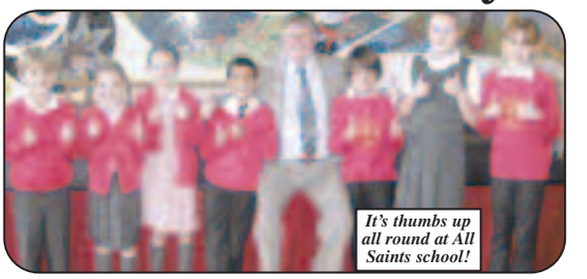
"It doesn't – particularly given the population size and social inequalities that exist in the town. I hope Coun Ernest now realises this.

"I'm also concerned that Coun Ernest sits at the Vale Council cabinet table making decisions about Barry while holding the outmoded views that he does."

Coun Ernest was praised by FocusBARRY supporter Dennis Harkus, who said: "I am pleased to hear that Coun Ernest has recognised the offence caused to many Barry people.

"To publicly apologise is the right and honourable thing to do and a very rare event indeed from a leading councillor."

'Excellent' report for All Saints Primary



It's thumbs up all round at All Saints school!

ALL Saints Church in Wales Primary School is celebrating after receiving praise and sector leading status from inspectors.

Their reports recognise that All Saints is a very successful school with many strengths. Teaching was acknowledged as providing a rich and varied range of learning experiences which are engaging, challenging and stimulating, through a broad and balanced curriculum.

The inspection teams also noted that pupils speak with great enthusiasm about their enjoyment of school, taking an active role in their own learning and great pride in their work. All Saints is one of the first schools in Wales to have achieved an 'excellent' for wellbeing, including significant examples of sector-leading practices.

'Excellent' is only awarded by Estyn in exceptional cases ('good' is the equivalent of Grade 1 under the old inspection framework).

Pupils receive excellent support and guidance, which was acknowledged to have contributed significantly to their wellbeing and has had a very positive impact on learning.

The inspectors recognised that the school's distinctive Christian character has a positive impact on pupils' all round development.

The reports also praised the school's strong community links and parental support and the excellent behaviour of the pupils.

Flower power

ON September 28, Penarth Flower Arrangement Club is holding a demonstration evening at 7.30pm with Sally Talor from Yate, South Gloucestershire, whose theme is 'Sallying Forth,' at the Masonic Hall, Stanwell Road.

Call Ann Dobbins on 02920 703605 for further details

Guiding Light Centre raised over £550 for Karen's Cause

CHRISTINE O'Neill and her students held an evening of clairvoyance and mediumship at the Guiding Light Centre – and raised more than £550 for Karen's Cause.

Christine said the evening was a great success and enjoyed by everyone and that the centre was very pleased to have helped Karen.

The Guiding Light Centre celebrates its fourth birthday soon and continues to grow, offering Tarot/mediumship readings with Christine and courses in mediumship, psychic skill, Tarot, palmistry and numerology, as well as evenings of clairvoyance held monthly.

Christine would like to thank all her students, past and present, for all their hard work and endeavours; she is "very proud of them all".

A big thank you to all her clients for their continued support.

Contact 01446 735691 and website www.guidinglightcentre.co.uk. Contact Karen's Cause at www.karenscause.co.uk

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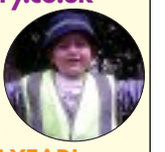

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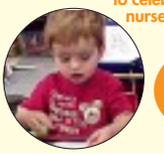
To celebrate their anniversary on 27th September, Rachel and Amy would like to thank the local community, parents who are attending nursery and their staff for all of their support.

To celebrate, they are holding a tea party at the nursery, with lots of special treats for the children.



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LEFT: Ioan Williams, with a fellow student, Mali Rees, and TV presenter Mererid Wigley.

VALE STUDENT'S TRIP TO AFRICA FOR A TV SHOW

A VALE student has just returned home after taking part in a TV programme about life in Africa.

Ioan Williams, a pupil at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, was selected to take part in a TV programme being filmed in Malawi by a Welsh company, Telesgop, for S4C.

The series is called *Newid Byd (Changing World)* and will be shown later this year.

There are two projects, one in Malawi and another in Cambodia.

Ioan was granted permission to miss the first week of term, and arrived back home last Sunday.

It means that Ioan has completed an exciting summer on a high note: He also gained 10 A*s and three As in his GCSE examinations.

New park opens in Barry

ABOVE: Celebration time as the park is officially opened.

YOUNG people in Barry have a brand new state-of-the-art play park – thanks to funding from the Barry Regeneration Area Fund.

Iolo Park, just off Treharne Road, was opened last week by Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Gordon Kemp, and Vale AM Jane Hutt. The council has been working with the Welsh Government Barry Regeneration Board and the Gibbonsdown and Court Communities First Partnership to refurbish the open space.

Before work began, local residents and young people were consulted to find out what they would like to see in the new park.

A joint application was then made to the Barry Regeneration Board for £204,490 to create a multi-purpose play area that would provide a wide range of activities for different age groups.

Coun Kemp said: "This new play park will provide children of all ages with a fun, safe environment where they can socialise with friends and enjoy themselves.

"We hope that it will become a focal point of the community and that it will encourage children to get more active by taking advantage of the new sports court".

The new multi-sports court will be illuminated until 9pm each day. The park also has new swings, slides and the latest roundabouts. There is also a special shelter for young people,extra paths and seating.

An urban art wall, designed and painted by young people who attend the Gibbonsdown and Court Youth Forum, also features in the park. Its creators wanted to promote positive messages around some of the issues young people face today, including drink, drugs, bullying and relationships.

Housing, regeneration and heritage minister, Huw Lewis, said: "This project goes beyond the physical regeneration of Barry, to help develop the social regeneration of the town, particularly where young people are concerned.

"They need their own space to meet friends and socialise outside of the home. I hope this new sports and play area will be a welcome addition to the town".

"OUCH... Mind my foot!"

Eisteddfod: Ground work is complete

PREPARATORY work on the field that will stage the 2012 National Eisteddfod in Llandow has been completed.

Organisers have made plans to cope with wet weather, and a spokeswoman explained what had been done with this in mind.

She said: "With help from neighbours Rhodri Davies and I and K Bradshaw, Tony and Hopkin Evans from Marcross Farm have completed the first step in preparing the ground for the Eisteddfod at Llandow.

Tony Evans told The GEM: "Never in living memory has a field been prepared with so much care!

"We are very pleased with what we have done so far. There is still a lot to do, but we have made a good start."

Hopkin Evans explained that the seed that has been planted is a special mix.

He said: "Hopefully, it will allow us to take one or two cuts to feed our cows, but it will leave a good solid base for the Eisteddfod to use, even if we have a wet summer."

EXAM JOY FOR TEEN

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

She added: "Cambridge was my dream, but the tough admission competition really scared me.

"I spent every evening revising and talking in front of the mirror to practice my interview performance.

"After a long period waiting over Christmas, I received a conditional offer of two A* grades, and two A grades from Jesus College.

"I was very stressed and scared of missing the offer."

Jieying actually exceeded what she needed.

"Last month, I got the news that the hard work had paid off and that I'd achieved four A*s.

"I really want to take this opportunity to thank my mum and hope she is so proud of me."

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BOOKINGS TAKEN BUT NOT ESSENTIAL

EDUCATION AT THE GRASSROOTS...

Pupils meet their new classmates

Do ewe know who?

BEKI

TO coincide with British Wool Week, a group of local sheep (the Kennixton Flock) took to the road to promote the Best of British – and to take wool back to its grass roots.

Children returning to the new school term at Gladstone Road Primary School, Barry were surprised to find a small flock of sheep attending for a special lesson on 'what happens when the sheep have finished wearing their wool?'

A spokesperson reports: "Assisted by spinners, Ann Fox and Heather Beckett, from the Tawe Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers, they were able to tell the story of wool – from the time the lambs arrive right through to shearing, sorting, washing, carding – and, finally, the process of spinning, that turns the wool into yarn ready to be made into garments.

"The children were able to see and handle a range of fleeces from different sheep that could be found in Wales.

"They learnt that wool is a natural and renewable fibre. It has evolved to produce a fabric that has become one of the most effective natural forms of all-weather protection known to man."

Soft springy lambs wool was a favourite, with all the children agreeing that they would like something to wear made from it.

"Then they had the chance to feel the black/brown fleece from local Balwen sheep, a much more course and hairy fleece which would certainly produce an itchy item of clothing.

"The children were then able to have a go at spinning with a wheel, and they were also able try their hand at weaving on a peg loom.

"Of course, the highlight of the morning was being able to meet the 'wool on the hoof'. These were two Dorset sheep, nine-month-old 'Joe' and five-month-old 'DJ' and two cross breed sheep – mother and daughter (Nikki and Beki).

Spinner Ann Fox with some of the children and the Dorset sheep.

"With the Dorset sheep, 'Joe' had been sheared earlier in the year and it was clear to see how the wool changes from the first fleeces (lambs wool) to the second fleece which grows back more thickly and is not quite as soft."

Every year, sheep produce a new fleece, making wool a renewable fibre source with naturally high UV protection, which is much higher than most synthetics and cotton.

Spinner Ann Fox said: "The children clearly enjoyed the visit and it was lovely being able to give them the opportunity to try spinning and weaving for themselves. They loved meeting the sheep who behaved amazingly well considering that they had not been in that environment before."

Following their involvement in British Wool Week, Gladstone Primary School is now launching an after-school knitting club.

Cement company gets the green light for fuels

LAFARGE Cement UK has received the go-ahead to use two new waste-derived fuels at its Aberthaw Works.

The Environment Agency Wales has granted the company a permit to evaluate end-of-life tyres and Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) as a partial replacement for more traditional fuels in the energy-intensive cement-making process.

These fuels offer the company the opportunity save up to 15,500 tonnes of coal each year, and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by up to 20,000 tonnes.

The company carried out a consultation exercise with the community before submitting its application.

A Lafarge spokeswoman said: "Solid Recovered Fuel or SRF is processed from non-recyclable wastes generated from homes and other sources

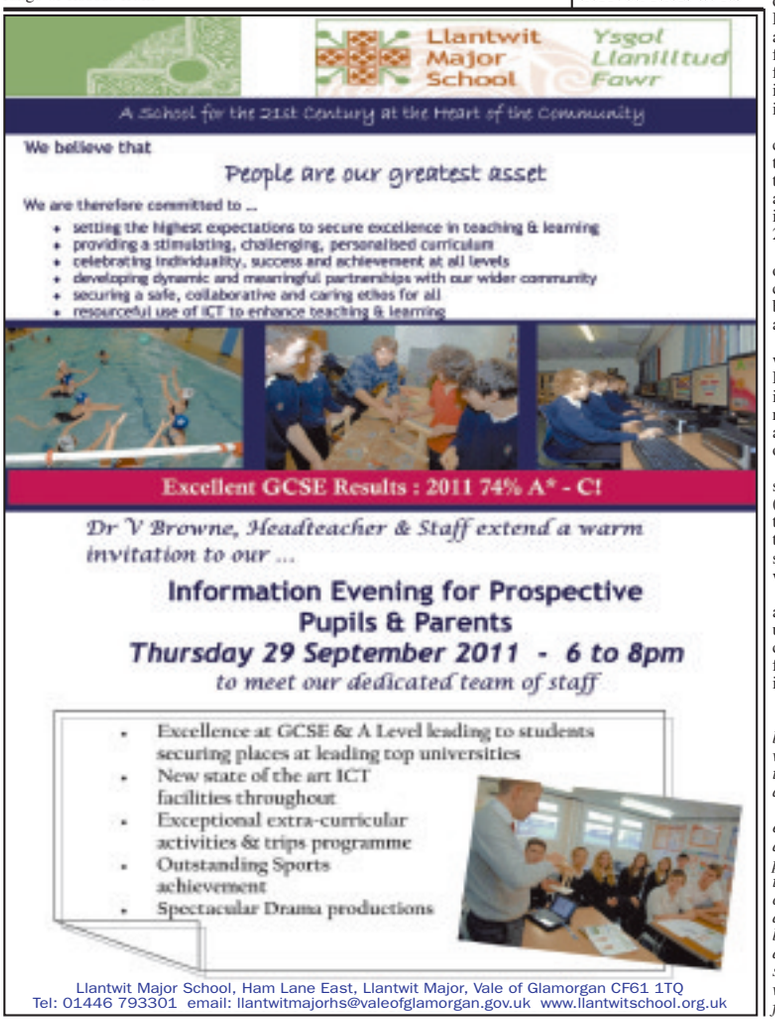
"End-of-life tyres are scrap car and van tyres (more than 30 million of these are generated in the UK each year presenting a significant waste disposal problem.

Lafarge can help address this problem by using the tyres as a very compatible, high energy fuel in cement-making)."

GEM NOTE:

The fact that the carbon dioxide tonnage was larger than the coal tonnage appeared to be an anomaly.

The spokeswoman explained: "Both SRS and tyres are classed as partially 'carbon neutral' biomass fuel – the carbon dioxide released during burning is offset by the amount captured during the growth of some of the materials which make up the fuels."



Schoolgirl makes it to final of a top music competition

A BARRY schoolgirl has made it through to the final of a UK-wide music competition.

Atiya Hamonda, a 14-year-old pupil at Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School recently entered the 'Open Mic UK' competition – an event which is a showcase for groups and solo artists.

Atiya is now preparing for the regional final in the Coal Exchange, Cardiff,which takes place on October 8.

Her mother, Nicola, told The GEM: "Atiya will be singing two songs on the night, and is going to do one cover and one song she wrote herself.

"She can't make her mind up about the cover, but at the moment she is leaning towards *Born This Way*".

ABOVE:
Atiya Hamona is practicing hard for her appearance in Cardiff's Coal Exchange.

Watch out for the sign!

A NEW road sign has been designed to help combat a spate of accidents involving cyclists at Llancarfan.

They were taking an unplanned dip in the ford after algae growth on the bottom made it a slimy hazard and it prompted Sue Millard, landlady of the nearby Fox and Hounds pub, to get in touch with Coun Gordon Kemp, Leader of the Vale Council and Llancarfan Community Council.

The special sign was created to warn cyclists of the potential hazard.

Coun Kemp said: "Although the algae does not present a danger for cars or other vehicles, it can be quite treacherous for cyclists.

Our officers designed a new sign which has been approved by the Welsh Government to address the specifics of this problem".

700 looking for work at Fair

A JOBS Fair in Barry, which attracted over 700 people in only four hours, has been hailed a success.

At the event organised by Gibbonsdown and Court Castleland Communities First project, in partnership with Job Centre Plus and the Vale Council, more than 100 jobs were on offer and organisations offering training opportunities and advice were also present.

Michelle Sullivan, Communities First acting co-ordinator, said: "A lot of attendees completed application forms on the day and the employers were extremely happy with the quality and quantity of the applicants.

"Most have said that they expect to fill all of the positions they had on offer. We have also had a lot of feedback from attendees thanking us for providing a crèche; this facility meant that many of them could chat with companies without being disturbed by their children."

The Construction Youth Trust also had a stand at the event and is working with Communities First to organise a construction taster course in October.

"It will be run by a qualified trainer, covering all aspects of construction, from carpentry to plumbing and general DIY.

"It is aimed at anybody who is interested in a career in construction or those who would just like to like to improve their home DIY skills," a Vale Council spokeswoman said.

"If there is enough interest, Communities First also hopes to put on a 'Pink Ladies' course specifically aimed at women who would like to know more about construction careers or DIY.

"The sessions will be flexible and moulded to fit the interests of the group."

ST ATHAN GETS AN ENTERPRISE ZONE BONUS – *but Barry misses out*

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

ST ATHAN has been chosen by the Assembly Government to be an enterprise zone specialising in the aerospace sector.

The decision has disappointed campaigners in Barry, who were arguing for a larger enterprise zone, one that included Cardiff, Barry and St Athan.

The decision was announced on Monday by the Business Minister, Edwina Hart, who announced four other Welsh enterprise zones – each specialising in a different business area.

The other four are:

- Cardiff Central Business District – with a particular focus on the financial services sector.
- Ynys Mon – focussed on the energy sector.
- Deeside – with a focus on the advanced manufacturing sector.
- Ebbw Vale – with a focus on the automotive sector.

Mrs Hart said that the five areas had been singled out because "...we need to get best value from the very modest consequential funding of approximately £10 million from the UK Government.

"I am not losing sight of the very real economic challenges faced by other areas of Wales. Therefore, while these are the preferred locations, in the first stage, we remain open to opportunities as they arise in other areas of Wales, where we are already in discussion with local partners."

Vale MP Alun Cairns said: "I'm delighted that St Athan has won enterprise zone status, but I can't believe that Barry has missed out again.

"Aeronautics is hugely cyclical and pinning economic hopes on one sector in just one area is not necessarily the most sensible option."

He said that there are "significant plans" to expand MoD St Athan, and hoped that the enterprise zone status could play a part in developing some facilities nearby.

Vale AM Jane Hutt said: "This is welcome news for the Vale. Giving St Athan enterprise zone status will raise real economic prospects for the county as a whole, providing the incentives and levers to develop the civilian aerospace industry from the St Athan site.

"With the town of Barry designated as a regeneration area by the Welsh Government, the council can now move forward with the backing of government, and the opportunities that enterprise zones bring.

"This will mean jobs, training and economic opportunity for St Athan and the wider area, and I am delighted with this good news for my constituents and the aerospace industry."

Plaid Cymru's spokesman for the Vale, Dr Ian Johnson said: "I am very pleased that the Welsh Government has followed a sectoral route of investment in areas to specialise in specific industries, to create local hubs and develop international level skill-bases and best practice in those fields.

"The St Athan Aerospace Business Park has been a long time in the planning stage, and I hope that this new investment kick-starts those plans.

"However, the UK Coalition Government is only providing £10 million in total in Wales for all five enterprise zones, so we wait to see whether additional funding will be available."

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives in the Assembly, Andrew RT Davies AM, said: "Hopefully, this will act as a catalyst to reinvigorate the St Athan Aerospace Park project, which has stagnated in recent years.

"Having said that, I'm sceptical that the Welsh Government has any real idea how they will bring this project closer to reality."

Coun Rhodri Traherne, cabinet member for economic development and regeneration, at the Vale Council, said it was "exceptionally good news" and that he was looking forward to hearing the details of her proposals.

He went on: "Having said that, the council is disappointed that Barry and Cardiff Airport were not included. There is an urgent requirement to encourage investment in Wales' 'One and Only International Airport' and there is little doubt that 'enterprise status' would have been hugely helpful to our efforts to regenerate Barry.

"I remain concerned about the health of the retail sector in the town and the crippling effects of business rates and employers' national insurance contributions on profitability."

Paul Haley, of the 'Pride in Barry' group, told The GEM that he felt he had been 'outlobbied' by the Cardiff business community.

Mr Haley, with the support of Associated British Ports, Dow Corning, Persimmon Homes, and Vale MP Alun Cairns, had been pushing for an enterprise zone that would stretch from Cardiff to St Athan, giving Barry a chance to be at the centre of it.

He said; "Cardiff didn't need to be an enterprise zone, but it shows how powerful the lobbying groups are there.

"We thought that a company such as Admiral, for instance, could have been attracted to Barry Waterfront, but it looks as if they will now go to Cardiff."

He said: "The Welsh Government already owns the Aerospace Business Park, and I understand that there are companies interested already.

"If they do come, the question is – has the enterprise zone clinched it, or would they have come anyway?"

He added: "This decision puts Barry further into the dark shadow of Cardiff."

HARVEST FESTIVAL AT AMELIA TRUST

The Amelia Trust Farm recently held its annual Harvest Festival weekend.

The event was opened by the Cowbridge Town Crier and visitors were treated to a parade of animals from the farm to welcome them.

There were a record number of stalls and activities, including food and craft stalls, children's games, a bouncy castle and live musical entertainment from Julia Harris, children's entertainment from Paddy the clown, and demonstrations from Goshin Karate.

On Sunday, the farm hosted a 'Big Picnic' and visitors were entertained by live music from 'Cube Jazz',

An act of worship to give thanks for the harvest concluded a very successful weekend.

Despite threats of stormy weather, the event was well attended and funds were raised to enable Amelia Trust to continue its valuable work.

Lorraine Brown, director, commented: "We are so grateful to the huge number of volunteers who gave their time to support the event, and the local businesses who provided sponsorship.

ABOVE: A young visitor gets close to an owl.

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PUPILS RESPOND TO THE FOODBANK PLEA

New year-7 pupils Scott, Josh and Ryan, with some of Barry Comprehensive School's donation to the Vale foodbank.

BARRY Comprehensive School was approached by the Vale Foodbank to help it provide families and individuals in crisis with emergency food supplies.

The foodbank is the result of a partnership between the Coastlands Family Church and the Vale Council, which has been providing food parcels to people in need since 2007.

Health visitors, social workers and other community based organisations will refer people in need of help to the foodbank, where they will receive enough nutritionally-balanced food for three days.

The school has collected items specified on the foodbank shopping list and will be delivering them in time for the official opening by Jane Hutt AM tomorrow (Friday, September 23).

CCTV assists with two cautions and four arrests

CCTV in the Vale, working under the umbrella of the Safer Vale Partnership, assisted with two cautions and four arrests in Barry in the week ending September 18; and one individual was issued with a fixed penalty in Llantwit Major.

CCTV contacted the police on 41 occasions. On September 14, two cautions were issued on George Street over drug offences, and one arrest concerned criminal damage on Holton Road.

Two arrests were made on Holton Road on September 16; one involved theft and another possession of an offensive weapon. On September 18, one arrest was made concerning an assault on Broad Street.

BEACH CLEAN

BARRY-based Friends of Barry Beaches will be holding its next beach-clean on Sunday, September 25 at Porthkerry Beach, meeting by the cafe at the usual time of 3pm.

This month, the group marks its first year helping to keep Barry's five main beaches free of litter.

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PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB NEWS

Group meet up after summer and welcome some new faces

IT'S good to see friends again after a break for summer – or whatever passes for summer these days! Good, too, to see more than a dozen new faces.

Penarth Computer Club always introduces the new (academic) year with a talk about what the club does. It takes the form of a PowerPoint presentation and talk.

It serves to inform in two different ways: primarily to explain all about the club, but also to illustrate the range of animations and effects.

If the number of effects is disturbing, then you have absorbed the first lesson of making PowerPoint presentations **DO NOT** go mad with effects.

There are hundreds to choose from. Putting in even half would take far too long and the result would be unbearable. Keep things simple.

Use a style that is appropriate to the task and keep the fancy stuff to the few places where they will have an impact.

On the other hand, it has to move along and be interesting. The presenter should not crowd the slides with information – nor should he simply put up text, read the text to the audience and move on to the next slide without adding extra information or context in his commentary.

The audience might feel accused of not being able to read it for themselves, or that the text is the limit of the speaker's knowledge. It is that sort of thing that gives rise to the groan "Not ANOTHER PowerPoint!"

Some interest was expressed in the process of preparing a good presentation.

The content of the club programme is determined by its members, so it could well feature as a topic for a future talk.

Questions were invited about the club or any computing topic. Some new members offered their thoughts on what they wanted to get from the club and noted that these things were covered by the presentation, which was promising.

Some were pleased to note that we do not 'do' games, but stayed with the (we feel) more constructive side of helping members improve their skills or learn new ones.

One visitor thanked us for the advice he picked up at our open evening that has already saved him money. Happy to oblige!

Steve fielded the technical questions about hardware and software. Some problems arose when trying to send large files as email attachments.

Check to see if there is a limit imposed by the service provider or if your machine has been set to control the file size.

There was interest in the pros and cons of social networks such as Twitter and Facebook and the possibility of identity theft.

The answer is to use them sensibly: be thoughtful about what you make available and make use of the access controls that are available.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, September 27, when Steve will show how to make your computer look good and behave itself. Visitors are welcome.

For more information, visit penarthcomputerclub.co.uk

HOWARD DESMOND (Chairman)

Beach clean barbecue!

A GROUP based in Ashgrove School which is involving pupils in clean-up work along the Heritage Coast, is holding a fundraising evening later this month.

A school spokesman said: "Our project, called Coastal Connections, is based on the philosophy of forest schools.

"As we are surrounded by coastline, it seemed a great natural resource to use. Groups of pupils will be visiting the local beaches on a weekly basis, using the beach as their learning resource.

"They will also be carrying out beach cleans and having the chance to learn to surf."

A fundraising event, the 'beach bums' ball, will take place on Friday, September 30, at Cafe Continental, Barry Island, with a barbecue and live music.

For tickets, telephone 07905 911235 and ask for Kerry.

PICTURED: Jane Hutt AM addresses the Barry Comprehensive School Parliament at Ty Hywel in the National Assembly for Wales.

AM addresses Barry school's 'parliament' at the Assembly

Vale AM and Finance Minister, Jane Hutt, addressed the Barry Comprehensive School parliament on Friday, September 16, in the former Chamber of the National Assembly in Ty Hywel, Cardiff Bay.

Ms Hutt reported: "This is a pioneering venture in pupil participation led by the school students with the backing of their teachers and head, Mr David Swallow.

"With the sixth formers reporting to the elected 'honourable members' from every school year group, on their work as 'Ministers', the depth and breadth of understanding by the pupils was outstanding, as they questioned them on their initiatives."

Rotarians' cheque

ANN MILLER, past president of Barry Vale Rotary Club, presents a cheque for £1,650 to Dr Lee Cambell of Cancer Research Wales.

The charity, based in Whitchurch, Cardiff, is recognised internationally for its independent advanced research in this field.

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Mum Sandra shocked at her lottery windfall

THE Slack family were celebrating last week, after Mum, Sandra, learned she had won the £5,000 rollover prize in the Tŷ Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery.

A "shocked and delighted" Sandra from Barry, said she had never won anything before and had become a member of the Ty Hafan lottery simply to support a local charity close to her heart.

As her daughter Emma is getting married next year, the windfall couldn't have come at a better time, she added.

Tŷ Hafan spokeswoman Liz Rundle explained: "The Crackerjackpot lottery makes "a significant contribution" towards the £3 million needed every year to ensure Tŷ Hafan can continue offering its valuable care and support to the increasing number of families in Wales who so desperately need it."

For more information on how you can become a member of Crackerjackpot, call 02920 672060 or visit www.tyhafan.org

STAR PEDAL POWER FOR THE PROSTATE CHARITY

FORMER Welsh rugby stars Ray Giles, Andrew Lewis and Simon Hill, are cycling from John O'Groats to Land's End to support Prostate Cymru, which helps to fund prostate treatment for men in Wales.

They will be joined on the 'Doing it the Hard Way' 120 miles a day 'Cyclothon' by friends and supporters of the organisation, which not only finances high-technology treatments, but also promotes increased awareness of prostate disease.

The ride, which would normally take at least 10 days, will be completed in seven days. They are supported by a full back-up team, including Dr Alun Clement, former orthopaedic and trauma surgeon with the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board.

Chairman and founder of Prostate Wales Charity Trust, Ray Murray, of Cowbridge, said: "We are extremely grateful that Ray, Andrew, Simon and the other three supporters are doing this very challenging ride for our charity. It will be a gruelling slog, from the very north of Scotland to the tip of Cornwall.

"Their efforts are helping us to raise funds that will enable our mission to provide prostate disease patients in Wales with the best treatment.

"We also want to increase awareness among men of prostate disease. Throughout the UK, prostate cancer claims 11,000 lives a year – many of them in Wales. It is important that men are aware of the symptoms and get early medical advice and treatment."

He continued: "We have contributed funding for the Centre of Excellence for Green Light Laser treatment for prostate disease at the Princess of Wales Hospital Bridgend, via our Glaze Prostate Charity.

"It has focused on the provision of equipment and training for health-care professionals. With Prostate Cymru we are now moving up a gear to help finance the very latest surgical equipment. We will be launching our new campaign soon."

People can support the charity and the cyclists at www.justgiving.com/jogle wales. Further information and a video diary of the journey can be seen at www.prostatecymru.com

WE

Christmas Child is back!

OPERATION Christmas Child, the annual children's charity campaign, set to launch in the Vale from September 24, is looking to supporters to continue providing shoeboxes filled with gifts for needy children overseas.

Cardiff, South Glamorgan and Vale of Glamorgan area coordinator for Operation Christmas Child, Ted Bird said: "We are one of the UK's largest annual children's charity projects, distributing over one million gift-filled shoeboxes to needy children at Christmas time last year: 2011 is the 21st year of Operation Christmas Child.

The level of support from across the county is vital to the continued success of the project and we know we can count on people's big-heartedness even in difficult economic times.

"Last year, we received shoeboxes from supporters in a wide range of communities, including Barry, Cardiff, Cowbridge, Dinas Powys, Llantwit Major, Penarth, Radyr, Rhoose and Taff's-Well and over 12,300 gift-filled shoeboxes were distributed to vulnerable children in Belarus, Crimea and Kosovo.

"It's wonderful to think that we are a small part of such a large global project that is doing so much good for millions of children.

Operation Christmas Child is an initiative of Samaritan's Purse, a Christian relief and development organisation.

• *Anyone wishing to participate in this year's shoebox campaign should visit* ***www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk*** *or contact the Helpline on* ***0870 011 2002.***

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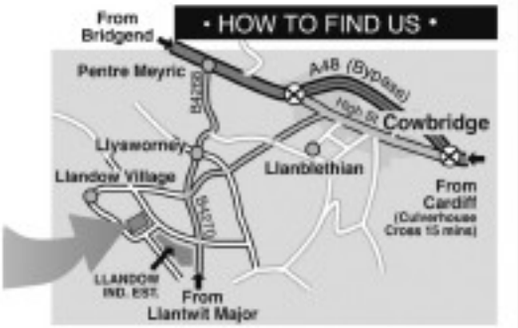

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We will open to the general public on Friday 23rd September.

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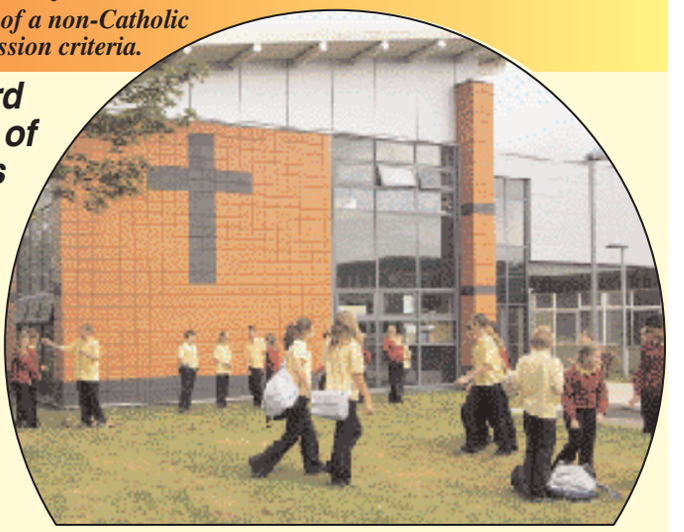

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Mother escapes prison

A MOTHER who broke her baby daughter's left arm, has escaped prison at Cardiff Crown Court.

The woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, and who lives in the Vale of Glamorgan, was said to have been "virtually a prisoner" in her home.

She was convicted by Vale Magistrates of offences of wounding and assault by beating, and had been committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

She was jailed for nine months, suspended for 18 months, made subject to a supervision order for 18 months, has to observe a 9pm to 7am curfew for four months, and be electronically tagged.

Judge Isobel Parry said it was exceptional for a partner such as herself to admit to what she had done.

At the time, the judge said, the woman had been in a "violent and controlling relationship" with the baby's father.

Added the judge: "It's difficult to understand why you were not able to escape from that relationship. I don't think you were malicious when you committed those offences. You were struggling to cope."

Prosecutor Gareth Evans said that in July, an ambulance was called to the woman's address. Paramedics saw the baby on a sofa crying and in obvious distress.

They were told the child had rolled off the sofa and the mother had grabbed her arm.

She was taken to the University Hospital of Wales, where an x-ray revealed a fracture of the left arm. There was also bruising to the right cheek and right forearm.

Two days later, said Mr Evans, a social worker discussed the injuries with the mother.

She broke down and said: "The truth is I lost my temper, and I grabbed her arm in anger. She would not shut up."

Her barrister, James Evans, said: "There is already an element of punishment in her losing her clean character.

"She is not a wicked woman who set out to hurt her child. Her partner had virtually imprisoned her in her home for six weeks."

He said she suffered depression and for those weeks, she was under unrelenting pressure.

He said she even had to hide money for food, so that her partner would not use it to buy cannabis.

The child, he said, was now with foster parents.

"In the long term, she hopes to have the child back and has said that whatever the court did to her, was what she deserved, such is her remorse."

He said punishment was not an appropriate way of dealing with her.

AJ SICLUNA

Penfest 2011 thumbs its nose at the weather!

THINGAMIJIG.

LLANCARFAN SCHOOL.

Report and pictures by
GAVIN DAVIES

RAFFLE WINNER'S DELIGHT.

A GOOD TURN-OUT.

Andrew Matthews (second left) singing with vocal group Baroc.

THERE may have been rain around the Vale, but on Saturday, September 10, we had very good weather for Penfest 2011 – Penmark's fifth music festival.

Yes, it did rain – for all of five minutes – and the sun we had more than made up for that.

Aubrey Bowen kindly allowed us to use his orchard by the castle ruins again, and it really is a beautiful setting for an event like this.

The festival opened with a peal by the Bellringers from St Mary's Church, just over the wall from the festival ground. St Mary's Church itself had been decorated and was open for visitors who could also inspect the registers.

Once the ringers had finished, the Llancarfan School Recorder Group started a full and varied programme of music which lasted well into the evening.

All the acts were really great but some deserve a special mention.

Roseanna Forte, who is going to Oxford to study music, and her friend Hannah, played string duets for us while Sophie Thomas, Lucy Atkins, Seren Adamson, Dan and Andrew Wigley and Will John and Harry Brookes played and sang a wide selection of music.

Folk music came next with Thingamijig, who even managed to get many of the younger members of the audience to dance.

As evening came down, we went for heavy metal with The Unknowns, who have appeared at nearly all our festivals and who were followed by our local star, Chloe Davies.

Then Andy Johnson sang a wide range of popular songs to round off an excellent event compered as usual by Mac Perry, who also performed and helped to set up the equipment. A great effort, thanks Mac!

We think some people were put off by the weather during the week, but even so, at least 240 people turned up – sometimes they were so enthusiastic it seemed like more.

Lunch, a pork roll with salad followed by homemade apple crumble, went down very well, the bar did a lot of business all through the day, and the cash barbecue allowed everyone to refuel before the later acts.

The Six Bells, Penmark and RAN Sales and Hire of Barry sponsored us and many people and firms gave us all sorts of help to allow us to put on this very successful event.

The event is normally run to raise money for our Village Hall but this year we will be making a donation to Motor Neurone Disease Charities in memory of Ann Radcliffe.

Thanks to everyone who helped us and to everyone who attended – we hope you all had a great time and look forward to seeing you next year.

COMPERE MAC PERRY.

BARRY *Comprehensive* SCHOOL

"Any extra help or support my son has needed over the years has been given without question. We always recommend the school at every opportunity."

"We were a little apprehensive as our son came from such a small primary school, but our fears were laid to rest. He thoroughly enjoys school."

"A big 'thank you' to all teachers and staff who have made our sons' experiences of school and learning a positive one."

Head Teacher David Swallow and his staff invite you to the

OPEN EVENING

Thursday 29th September

7pm – 9pm

Our motto of "Opportunity to Succeed" is clearly evident in so many different ways. Academic success is at the forefront of the school's continued development. A Level and GCSE success at the highest level was evident again this year. At GCSE, 70% of students gained 5 or more A*- C grades and over a third of students enjoyed 10 or more pass grades.

Support for students to achieve their full potential is in place from the first day they arrive at school and the opportunities available outside the classroom are numerous. The school's recent International School Award from the British Council reflects how strong our links are globally and we are also proud to be an integral part of the local community.

Students enjoy visits throughout Europe and our strong links with schools in Sri Lanka have been recognised by considerable press coverage nationally. Every pupil who joins us should aspire to involve himself in all aspects of school life.

Feedback from a recent parental survey was very positive and some of the responses are reported on this page.

"My child has thrived in this school and achieved more than I thought possible."

"We feel staff have played a massively positive part in helping our son become a well-motivated young man."

"Staff are totally dedicated to not only providing an education, but also in supporting their pupils on a day to day basis."

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WHAT'S ON - in brief

Cosy nest

NEST (Making Wales Cosy) a Welsh Government programme will be holding an informal advice surgery at the Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry, on September 29, 10am-11.30am. An advisor will be available to give practical advice on energy-related issues such as insulation and ways of saving energy. *Contact 01446 732385.*

Art society

A meeting of the Cowbridge Art Society will be held at 7pm on September 29 in the annexe of Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge, when Barry Herniman will be giving a watercolour demonstration.

Non-members are welcome to attend.

Gardening club

THE Cowbridge Gardening Club will meet again after the summer break on September 29 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Town Hall, Cowbridge, when the speaker will be Mrs Enid Hart, with a talk entitled 'All about clematis'.

Spiritualists' meeting

CADOXTON Christian Spiritualist Church, Kenilworth Road, is holding a spiritual photographic evening with Emma and Gareth on September 29, at 7pm. £2.50 at the door. All proceeds goes towards the renovation of the church.

Railway talk

THE first lecture of the 2011-2012 season by the Vale of Glamorgan Railway Co, Barry (formally the Barry Island Railway) will take place on Thursday, September 29, in Barry Dock Conservative Club at 7.30pm.

Local historian Mr Gavin Davies will talk about the worst disaster to have happened on a railway in Britain.

In 1915, a troop train carrying soldiers enroute to the fighting in France collided with an empty passenger train, north of Carlisle. An express then ploughed into the wreckage.

Mr Davies,who is a member of the Western Front Society, will also talk about other accidents involving troop trains. New members are always welcome.

Art auction for charity

ORIGINAL work by Welsh artists will go under the hammer for charity next week.

Shelter Cymru auctions have become a popular fixture of the Welsh arts scene. This year, a record 54 artists have contributed 72 pieces and organisers are hoping this will help them match the £27,000 raised by last year's auctions.

One of the auctions takes place on September 30 at the Washington Gallery, Penarth.

Entry is via a bidding ticket available free from Shelter Cymru. Email fundraising@shelter-cymru.org.uk or phone 01792 469400.

Kettle on for charity

ON Friday, September 30, Arthur and Carole, who work at WA Brown & Son, Funeral Directors in Llantwit Major, will be taking part in the world's biggest coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

The office in College Street, Llantwit Major, will be serving coffee (and tea) with biscuits between 10am and 1pm in exchange for a donation, however small or large.

For further information, call 01446 792489.

Charity dinner

VALEPLUS, the Vale-based charity that provides lifelong learning and leisure opportunities for people with a learning disability, holds its annual dinner dance on September 30 at 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall, Broad Street, Barry.

Tickets cost £17.50. There will be a three-course meal and disco. The theme will be 'A Masked Ball'.

Contact Melanie or Steve on 01446 746691 or by email steve@vale-plus.or.uk.

Pub songs

THE Half Tidy singing group will be appearing at the Sportsman's Rest pub, Peterston-super-Ely, on Friday, September 30, when a collection for the 2012 Eisteddfod appeal will be taken during the sing-along evening.

How to keep active

VALE Older People's Strategy Forum will mark Older People's Day on October 1 with advice on 'Getting and Staying Active' at the Cowbridge Town Hall, from 9am-1pm.

Try Nordic walking, indoor sports activities, computer tasters and browse information stalls.

Friends' coffee

FRIENDS and Neighbours are celebrating Older Persons' Day on Saturday, October 1, with a coffee morning at The Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry.

The event will be opened by Jane Hutt AM, at 10am. Admission is free and there will be a wide range of stalls. All proceeds for Friends and Neighbours' Christmas party and other activities. *Contact Gay Fifield on 01446 400044 for further information.*

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A star studded welcome to the DogsTrust Cowbridge Branch

TOP TV ACTOR VISITS COWBRIDGE TO OPEN NEW DOGS' TRUST SHOP

The crowds waiting to greet the TV star in Cowbridge.

Photos by MIKE WILCOCK

Harris and his star owner, with two of their fans at the shop.

A TOUCH of Hollywood-style fever came to Cowbridge on Saturday (September 17) when the star of *Torchwood* and *Desperate Housewives*, John Barrowman, opened the new Dogs Trust charity shop in the town.

The actor is a long-standing patron of the charity, and he started the celebrations at 12pm, declaring the shop open with the help of his dog, Harris.

The actor stayed for more than an hour, signing autographs non-stop, (*see left*) as well as having photographs taken with shoppers.

A Dogs Trust spokeswoman said: "The event was a huge success as the public joined in the festivities and enjoyed drinks and nibbles.

"Savvy shoppers and their dogs were able to get first dibs on the array of bargains on offer thanks to the generous donations the shop has received so far."

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Music Treats are on offer!

Musicians of the Vale will be holding a concert of vocal and instrumental music on September 24, at 7.30pm in Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge. There will be a song recital on Tuesday, September 27 and a charity chamber music concert on September 30 (both at 7.30pm in the church).

Full details at www.cowbridgemusicfestival.co.uk

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Start Wednesday 23rd November to Saturday, 24th December

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3 Courses £31.95 - 2 Courses £27.95
Young Diners (12 and under) Half Price

Boxing Day - Normal Menu

Da Gennaro RISTORANTE ITALIANO

Lunchtime Christmas Menu

STARTER
Pate Fegatini di Pollo
Homemade chicken liver paté served with hot toast
Zuppa del Giorno
Minestrone Soup
Funghi con Aglio
Mushroms in garlic and white wine sauce
Prosciutto Mozzarella
Mozzarella Cheese and parma ham

MAIN COURSE
Penne Pollo and Vino Bianco
Chicken, white wine, cream and a hint of garlic
Pizza with 2 toppings
Salmone ai Gambaretti
Salmon with prawns and garlic butter sauce
Risotto al Funghi e Formaggio
Risotto with mushrooms and parmesan cheese

2 COURSE £8.95
3 COURSE (INCLUDING TIRAMISU) £11.95

Christmas Dinner Menu
3 COURSE MEAL £19.95

STARTER
Gamberoni Al Vino Bianco
King Prawns cooked in garlic butter, white sauce
Funghi Con Aglio
Mushrooms served in garlic white wine sauce
Chicken Paté
Chicken paté served with toast and salad
Zuppa di Vegatali
Vegetable soup
Asparagi & Gamberetti
Asparagus, peeled prawns, parmesan cheese and cream baked in oven
Raviolo ai Funghi
Fresh ravioli cooked with mix of mushrooms, parmesan and cream

MAIN COURSE
Bistecca Pepe Nero
Sirloin steak grilled, served with black peppers, red wine and cream
Pesce Spada
Swordfish with lemon sauce
Pollo Prosciutto e Mozzarella
Chicken breast wrapped in parma ham, cooked in tomato sauce and topped with cheese
Penne Ortolana
Garlic, olive oil, courgettes, aubergine, cherry tomatoes and mozzarella
Risotto Marinara
Sea food risotto or risotto mushrooms

DESSERT
Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce OR Timamisu

71 High Street, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan
Telephone 01446 732557

What's on and where in your area

Miscellany of Music

BARRY Choral Society invites the public to a Miscellany of Music at All Saints Church, Barry, tomorrow (September 24) at 7.30pm.

Under the musical direction of conductor Eugene Monteith, and accompanied by pianist Emma Arscott, the choir will perform music by a variety of composers.

It includes Brahms' *How Lovely are Thy Dwellings* from his German Requiem, *Irish Blessing* by Bob Chilcott, *Ave Verum* by Elgar, *Locus Iste* by Bruckner, *The Seal Lullaby* by Eric Whitacre and Rutter's *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*.

The choir will also sing two Kandar and Ebb pieces and Gwyn Arch's arrangement of 'Fly Me To The Moon'.

The choir will perform the winning entry in their Royal Welsh College of Music and DramaComposition Prize – an annual prize donated by the choir.

The winner was Thomas Morgan, with his arrangement of 'Love Divine All Loves Excelling'.

Other pieces will include the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's *Messiah*.

Tickets, at £6, are available from Harmony Furnishings, High Street, or at the door.

Coffee morning

A COFFEE morning in aid of restoration work on two local historic buildings in Llantwit – The Galilee Chapel at St Illtud's Church and Bethesda'r Fro Chapel at Eglwys Brewis, will be held on September 24, at 10.30am at West Farm, West Street. Pay on the door. Some parking in field.

Harvest service in Penarth

ALL Saints Church, Victoria Square, Penarth, is holding a special family service to celebrate Harvest on Sunday, October 2, at 10am.

Refreshments will be served afterwards. Gifts of fresh fruit and vegetables or dry goods will be much appreciated, for distribution within the parish. All are welcome.

The parish of Penarth All Saints is launching another Alpha course this autumn. Alpha is an informal way to explore the Christian faith through talks and discussion over a meal.

This year's course will begin with a 'taster' session on Wednesday, October 5 at 7.30pm – all will be welcome, of any faith, or none.

For further details, contact Becca on 02920 709467.

Football for girls

A NEW weekly 'turn up and play' football session for girls starts at Parc Bryn y Don, Dinas Powys, on September 24, between 12pm and 1pm for girls of all ages and abilities.

For details, contact Grant Kalahar on 07792 223573.

Garin speaks

FORMER Wales rugby international Garin Jenkins will be speaking at Salem Baptist Church, Beryl Road, Barry, this Sunday, September 25, at 11am. Barry Ladies Choir will also be singing on the day. Everybody welcome. Free admission.

For further information, contact Chris Lacey of Salem Baptist Church on 07414 187 211.

Back to church

BARRY churches are joining the national 'Back to Church' campaign on September 25.

St Paul's Church is located in St Paul's Avenue, next to High Street School and the service starts at 10am.

Valeways walks

VALEWAYS guided walks for September last for 60-90 minutes, except for extended walks which last for up to two hours.

Sunday, September 25 at 2pm:'Autumn's start' at St Peter's Church, Mill Road, Dinas Powys. *For details, telephone 01446 749000.*

Harvest festival

HOLY Trinity Presbyterian Church, Barry, is holding harvest services on Sunday, September 25, a 11am and 6pm with Rev Duncan Ballantyne officiating.

All are welcome at services held in the church community hall on the corner of Aberystwyth Crescent.

Come listen to the band

LOVERS of heritage should make the trip to Cadoxton this Sunday, September 25, as the Barry Brass Band return to Victoria Park to play their last concert of the summer, in the recently-restored bandstand, as part of the UK-wide National Bandstand Marathon.

The band will be playing their brand of traditional, modern and sometimes whacky, arrangements.

The concert starts at 2pm and admission is free.

Enrol on a course!

WITH just a few days left until adult education classes begin on Monday, September 26, staff at adult and community learning centres across the Vale are still taking last-minute enquiries, as students rush to take up the last few places on courses for the autumn term.

It's not too late to enrol on a course and there are some places available on a wide variet.y of courses.

These include: computers, creative arts, languages, health and well-being, music and dance and personal development, history and literature courses.

Learners are advised to call centres to check on availability in the first instance. Contact 01446 738054, badecen@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or 01446 733762 palmerstoncentre@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Lifestyle course

MEND, a 10-week after-school programme funded by the Welsh Assembly will be held at Barry Leisure Centre from September 26.

Local families with children aged between seven and 13 can learn about nutrition and how to maintain a balanced diet, while children take part in fun games and activities.

The free course also includes a visit to a supermarket to learn how to read food labels.

Mayor's coffee

THE Mayor of the Vale's charity coffee morning at St Helen's Church Hall, Wyndham Street, Barry, on September 27 at 10.30am to 12 noon, will be in aid of St Mary's Church, Barry.

Zoar service

ZOAR Presbyterian Church, Bonvilston, will hold a harvest thanksgiving service on September 28 at 7pm, when the guest speaker is Rev Charles Chua of Swansea.

Everyone is welcome.

Live music

LIVE music from Collider, at Gordon Bennett, 8.30pm every Thursday. Contact Dave on 07834 298 941.

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Gyrfa Cymru Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale

Developing people through lifelong career planning

What we do

Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale is responsible for the delivery of:

- The statutory Careers Service (Youth Guidance Services), Youth Gateway and Education Gateway
- Cardiff and Vale Education Business Partnership (EBP)
- Adult Guidance Services
- The Learning and Careers Advice helpline in Wales

Careers Wales

Here to help you!

Molly makes the right career move

Molly Willis, centre, administration apprentice at Cooke & Arkwright with Jane Shankland, associate director of the company and Leon Patnett, post education business manager, Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale.

Following a work taster placement organised by Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale, eighteen year-old Molly Willis is delighted to be settling in so well at her job with a high profile Cardiff firm.

Molly left Stanwell Comprehensive School, Penarth following her GCSEs to take up a career in hairdressing but soon realised that this was not what she wanted.

Having sought advice from Careers Wales, Molly was set up with an interview for a work taster placement with chartered surveyors, Cooke & Arkwright.

The scheme provides employers with the opportunity to assess a candidate's suitability over two weeks before committing to a permanent contract, while the candidate gets the chance to demonstrate their skills and potential.

Having successfully been accepted by Cooke & Arkwright, Molly has gone from strength to strength and is now following an apprenticeship in administration with the company.

"I'm so pleased to have been given this chance and am loving my job," said Molly.

"I realised hairdressing wasn't for me but needed some direction and this is exactly what I got from Careers Wales – I even received help to update my CV and also with interview skills which was so useful. As well as the experience I'm gaining on the job, I'm being supported by a training assessor from learning provider ACT."

Jane Shankland from Cooke & Arkwright added: **"Involvement with the Work Taster Scheme is a new thing for us but it's worked out so well with Molly."**

"The idea of a taster gives all concerned the chance to work out if things are right and we're delighted with Molly's progress."

Redundancy leads to new career

When Paul Jones lost his job in 2009 after working for ten years as a bricklayer, little did he realise that redundancy would provide him with the opportunity to forge a new career as a specialist trainer in the security industry.

Following his redundancy, Paul registered with Jobcentre Plus and was told about ReAct, a scheme set up by the Welsh Government to help retrain individuals who are newly redundant. He was also referred to Careers Wales to discuss his plans.

Paul was interested in pursuing a career in the security industry and was aware he needed to be properly trained and qualified to get work. Careers adviser Phil Mason informed him of local courses available and as a result Paul successfully applied to Primus Training and Consultancy.

Paul said: **"Phil was very supportive. He talked though my options and gave me the information I needed to enable me to decide what to do next."**

Paul completed a course leading to a Security Industry Authority (SIA) Close Protection Licence. Staff at Primus Training were so impressed with his ability and enthusiasm that he was invited to apply for a position with the company to train as a trainer.

Paul Jones, now a trainer with Primus Training following a change in career.

Paul added: **"I went through several vigorous assessments with Primus Training and also worked towards the City and Guilds Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTLLS) qualification to enable me to teach.**

"I now teach a range of courses and am also involved in business development for Primus Training. I also work part-time for RAS Security to maintain my practical skills."

Looking for advice on learning and careers?

We can help, whatever your age or situation - whether you're at school or college, unemployed, facing redundancy, thinking about your first job or a career change, or want to improve your prospects in your current job.

- Visit our website **www.careerswales.com** for information on careers, courses, jobs and training including apprenticeships.
- Call our national **Learning and Careers Advice helpline 0800 100 900.** If calling from a mobile please telephone 029 2090 6801. Lines are open between 9am-9pm Monday-Friday and 9am-12 noon on Saturday. You can also email us at **lca@careerswales.com**
- If you want to speak to an adviser face to face you can drop in or phone to make an appointment at one of our centres.

  53 Charles Street, Cardiff CF10 2GD Tel: 029 2090 6700
  49 Holton Road, Barry CF63 4HF Tel: 01446 410600
- Young people in full time education can arrange to see their careers adviser at their school or college.

A group of Year 9 students taking part in the Discover! Saturday Club find out more about aircraft maintenance at British Airways Maintenance Cardiff with engineer Gareth Davies.

Saturday Club rolled out across Wales

A made-in-Wales initiative to encourage more girls to take up science and engineering has been highly acclaimed by a prestigious awards body and is being rolled out across the country.

The Discover! Saturday Club was launched four years ago by Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale Education Business Partnership (EBP) in association with WISE (Women into Science, Engineering and Construction) to encourage girls in Year 9 to pursue their interest in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) and provide them with the opportunity to explore career opportunities which they may not have previously considered. The club has twice received recognition at the UK finals of the WISE Partnership Awards held in London.

This year sessions were conducted by Cardiff University, BRASS (The Centre for Business Relationships, Accountability, Sustainability and Society), RWE npower at Aberthaw Power Station and British Airways Maintenance Cardiff. Following their success, Discover! clubs are being developed by Careers Wales across Wales.

Improvements to our services

- We are refurbishing our Careers Centre at 49 Holton Road, Barry to provide more interviewing space and improve the reception area. Youth Gateway in the Vale will also be based there. This work forms the final part of our plan to improve facilities for customers which included the refurbishment of Youth Gateway and our Careers Centre in Charles Street, Cardiff.
- We have developed our systems to manage the performance of our staff, ensuring the best possible service to our customers.
- In a recent survey, 96% of Year 11 students (15 and 16 year olds) who were questioned felt that their interview with a careers adviser had been useful, quite useful or very useful.

Working in partnership @33

From left: Sharon Jones (Cwm Taf Local Health Board), Lisa Fryer, (Youth Gateway Careers Wales), Joe Payne (Llamau) and Steven Carroll (administration support)

Careers Wales is committed to working with other key organisations to enhance support for 16 -18 year olds not in education, employment or training and has recently welcomed several new partners to its Youth Gateway Centre in Charles Street Cardiff, now known as @33, to develop this multi agency approach.

Youth Gateway advisers provide ongoing guidance and support to help young people overcome barriers that stop them accessing education, employment or training.

A Learning Coach team of careers advisers and youth workers, funded by Cardiff Children and Young People's Partnership and Cardiff and Vale 14-19 Networks, also works from the centre to help those often considered to be hardest to reach.

The new multi-agency approach will also enable young people to have access to other services to help them deal with problems they may face as they move into adulthood and working life. Helping to assist the most vulnerable clients @33 will be a Healthy Mind Worker from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Cwm Taf Local Health Board and counsellors from Action for Children.

Housing Officers from Housing Options (Cardiff Council and Llamau) and a social worker from Cardiff Council Social Care Services will be also be providing advice and support from mediation workers who will be able to assess and advise 16 and 17 year-olds seeking help with their ongoing accommodation queries, care and personal development needs.

Careers Wales advisers are also based with the Youth Offending Service in Cardiff and the Vale to help young people who have offended.

Gyrfa Cymru Careers Wales

How we did in 2010/2011

Support for students in secondary and further education in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan		Achievement	% against target
Interviews.		16,129	120%
Moving Forward Plans.		11,420	104%
Group sessions.		1,733	94%
Young people taking part in Education Gateway, a motivational programme for 14 -16 year olds and young people in college.		693	109%
Young people receiving mentoring support from Education Gateway advisers.	Interviews Group sessions	2,662 869	164% 98%
Work with young people with a Statement of Special Educational Need.	Interviews Transition Reviews attended Learning and Skills Plans Group sessions	1,025 591 153 19	139% 104% 93% 119%
Number of young people who received support for an education business activity.	Primary schools Secondary schools	17,558 29,134	130% 108%
Number of work experience placements arranged.	14 -16 year olds 16 -19 year olds	5,686 1,047	N/A N/A
Number of young people taking part in business and enterprise.	12 -16 year olds 16 -19 year olds	6,659 1,670	N/A N/A
Number of young people receiving employer support for mentoring and individual goal setting.		1,078	N/A
Number of young people involved in setting up small business projects with employer support.	12 -16 year olds 16 -19 year olds	3,653 1,673	N/A
Number of young people participating in employer supported curriculum delivery/development activities.		17,993	N/A

Support for schools and colleges

Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale works closely with teachers and lecturers to ensure pupils and students receive high quality careers education and guidance. During the year 41 training events were organised involving 110 teachers and associated staff. In addition 381 primary and secondary school teachers and college lecturers were helped to find placements with employers: 92% against target.

Support for parents and guardians Surveys have found that parents and carers are the biggest influence on the career decisions of their children		
Discussions with parents.	1,257	N/A
Parents evenings attended.	75	N/A
Mailings to parents of students in Years 7, 9, 10, 11 & 12.	23,175	N/A

Support for young people who have left full time education		
Interviews by careers advisers at our centres.	2,151	99%
Interviews by careers advisers with young people with a Statement of Special Educational Need.	459	N/A
Interviews by careers assistants.	3,334	91%
Written outcomes of guidance.	2,310	139%
Number of young people placed in Youth Gateway.	524	95%
Number of young people placed into employment.	286	N/A
Number of young people placed into work-based training.	1,542	N/A
Interviews with young people on Youth Gateway.	7,096	129%
Moving Forward Plans for young people on Youth Gateway.	1,090	103%
Group sessions for young people on Youth Gateway.	5,020	96%

Support for adults		
Interviews by careers advisers	6,346	110%
Of which: Adults interviewed who were unemployed.	1,833	N/A
Adults interviewed under notice of redundancy, including those supported under ReAct.	1,905	N/A
Interviews by careers assistants.	3,203	107%
Written outcomes of guidance.	6,888	105%
Group sessions.	85	106%

Learning and Careers Advice national helpline 0800 100 900
Last year 31,028 calls and 598 emails to the helpline were received from across Wales.

Working with employers		
Visits to employers.	1,494	127%
Job vacancies notified.	434	N/A
Employers supporting education business activities.	3,789	148%

Careers Wales is funded by the Welsh Government. The cost of our services for the year 1st April 2010-31st March 2011 was approximately £2.89 per month per household in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government

We value your opinions. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about our services please contact:

Avril Jackson, Marketing Manager, Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale, 53 Charles Street, Cardiff CF10 2GD Tel: 029 2090 6700 or email avril.jackson@cardiffandvale.org.uk

Gyrfa Cymru Careers Wales Caerdydd a'r Fro

Datblygu pobl drwy gynllunio gyrfa gydol oes

Yr hyn a wnawn

Mae Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro yn gyfrifol am ddarparu:

- Y Gwasanaeth Gyrfaoedd statudol (Gwasanaethau Arweiniad Ieuenctid), Porth Ieuenctid a Porth Addysg
- Partneriaeth Addysg Busnes Caerdydd a'r Fro (PAB)
- Gwasanaethau Arweiniad Oedolion
- Llinell Gymorth Cyngor Dysgu a Gyrfaoedd yng Nghymru

Gyrfa Cymru
Yma i'ch helpu!

Molly'n gwneud y symudiad gyrfa cywir

Molly Willis, yn y canol, prentis gweinyddu yn Cooke & Arkwright gyda Jane Shankland, cyfarwyddydd cyswllt y cwmni a Leon Patnett, rheolydd busnes di-addysg, Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro.

Yn dilyn lleoliad blasu gwaith a drefnwyd gan Gyrfa Cymru a'r Fro, mae Molly Willis sy'n ddeunaw oed yn falch iawn i fod yn setlo mor dda yn ei swydd gyda chwmni proffil uchel yng Nghaerdydd.

Gadawodd Molly Ysgol Gyfun Stanwell, Penarth ar ôl ei TGAU i ddilyn gyrfa mewn trin gwallt ond sylweddolodd yn fuan nad dyma'r hyn yr oedd eisiau.

Ar ôl gofyn am gyngor gan Gyrfa Cymru, trefnwyd cyfweliad ar gyfer lleoliad blasu gwaith i Molly gyda syrfewyr siartredig Cooke & Arkwright.

Mae'r cynllun yn rhoi cyfle i gyflogwyr asesu addasrwydd ymgeisydd dros ddwy wythnos cyn ymrwymo i gontract parhaol, tra bod yr ymgeisydd yn cael cyfle i ddangos ei sgiliau a photensial.

Ar ôl llwyddo i gael ei derbyn gan Cooke & Arkwright, aeth Molly o nerth i nerth ac mae'n awr yn dilyn prentisiaeth mewn gweinyddiaeth gyda'r cwmni.

"Rwyf mor falch fy mod wedi cael y cyfle yma ac wrth fy modd yn fy swydd," meddai Molly.

"Fe wnes sylweddoli nad oedd trin gwallt yn iawn i mi ond roeddwn angen arweiniad a dyna'n union yr hyn a gefais gan Gyrfa Cymru - fe wnes hyd yn oed dderbyn help i ddiweddaru fy CV a hefyd gyda sgiliau cyfweliad oedd mor ddefnyddiol. Yn ogystal â'r profiad rwy'n ei gael ar y swydd, rwy'n cael fy nghefnogi gan asesydd hyfforddiant o'r darparydd dysgu ACT."

Ychwanegodd Jane Shankland o Cooke & Arkwright: **"Mae'n beth newydd i ni gymryd rhan yn y Cynllun Blasu Gwaith ond mae wedi gweithio allan mor dda gyda Molly.**

"Mae'r syniad o flasu gwaith yn rhoi cyfle i bawb ganfod os yw pethau'n iawn ac rydym wrth ein bodd gyda chynnydd Molly."

Dileu swydd yn arwain at yrfa newydd

Pan golloddd Paul Jones ei swydd yn 2009 ar ôl gweithio am ddeng mlynedd fel bricwr, ychydig yr oedd yn sylweddoli y byddai hynny'n rhoi cyfle iddo sicrhau gyrfa newydd fel hyfforddydd arbenigol yn y diwydiant diogelwch eiddo.

Ar ôl i'w swydd gael ei dileu, cofrestrodd Paul gyda Chanolfan Byd Gwaith a chafodd wybod am ReAct, cynllun gan Lywodraeth Cymru i helpu oilhyfforddi unigolion sydd newydd golli eu swyddi. Cafodd hefyd ei gyfeirio at Gyrfa Cymru i drafod ei gynlluniau.

Roedd gan Paul ddiddordeb mewn gyrfa yn y diwydiant diogelwch eiddo a gwyddai fod angen iddo gael ei hyfforddi'n iawn a chael cymwysterau i gael gwaith. Hysbysodd y cynghorydd gyrfaoedd Phil Mason ef am gynsiau lleol oedd ar gael ac fel canlyniad gwnaeth Paul gais llwyddiannus i Primus Training and Consultancy.

Dywedodd Paul: **"Roedd Phil yn gefnogol iawn. Fe siaradodd am yr opsiynau oedd ar gael a rhoddodd yr wybodaeth roeddwn ei hangen i fy ngalluogi i benderfynu beth i'w wneud nesaf."**

Cwblhaodd Paul gwrs yn arwain at Drwydded Diogelu Eiddo yr Awdurdod Diwydiant Diogelwch Eiddo (SIA). Gwnaeth ei allu a'i frwdfrydedd gymaint o argraff ar

Paul Jones, sydd yn awr yn hyfforddydd gyda Primus Training yn dilyn newid gyrfa.

staff Primus Training fel iddo gael ei wahodd i wneud cais am swydd gyda'r cwmni i ddysgu bod yn hyfforddydd.

Ychwanegodd Paul: **"Cefais nifer o asesiadau trwyadl gyda Primus Training ac fe wnes hefyd weithio tuag at gymhwyster Paratoi i Addysgu yn y Sector Dysgu Gydol Oes (PTLLS) City and Guilds i fy ngalluogi i addysgu.**

"Rwy'n awr yn addysgu nifer o gyrsiau a hefyd yn ymwneud â datblygu busnes i Primus Training. Rwyf hefyd yn gweithio'n rhan-amser i RAS Security i gynnal fy sgiliau ymarferol".

Edrych am gyngor ar ddysgu a gyrfaoedd?

Galwn helpu, beth bynnag yw'ch oedran neu sefyllfa - p'un ai ydych yn dal i fod yn yr ysgol neu goleg, yn ddi-waith, yn wynebu colli eich swydd, yn meddwl am eich swydd gyntaf neu newid gyrfa neu eisiau gwella eich rhagolygon yn eich swydd bresennol.

- Edrychwch ar ein gwefan **www.gyrfacymru.com** i gael gwybodaeth ar yrfaoedd, cynsiau, swyddi a hyfforddiant yn cynnwys prentisiaethau.
- Ffoniwch ein **llinell gymorth genedlaethol Cyngor Dysgu a Gyrfaoedd 0800 100 900**. Os ydych yn galw o ffôn symudol, ffoniwch 029 20290 6801 os gwelwch yn dda. Mae'r linellau ar agor rhwng 9am-9pm ar ddyddiau Llun-Gwener a 9am-12 canol-dydd ar ddyddiau Sadwrn. Mednwch hefyd anfon e-bost atom i **lca@careerswales.com**.
- Os hoffech siarad wyneb yn wyneb gyda chynghorydd mednwch alw heibio neu ffonio i wneud apwyntiad yn un o'n canolfannau.

53 Heol Siarl, Caerdydd CF10 2GD **Ffôn: 029 2090 6700**
49 Heol Holton, Y Barri CF63 4HF **Ffôn: 01446 410600**

- Gall pobl ifanc mewn addysg amser-llawn drefnu i weld eu cynghorydd gyrfaoedd yn eu hysgol neu goleg.

Grŵp o fyfyrwyr Blwyddyn 9 yn cymryd rhan yng Nghlwb Sadwrn Darganfod! yn cael mwy o wybodaeth am gymal a chadw awyrennau yn British Airways Maintenance Cardiff gydo'r peirianneg Gareth Davies.

Ymestyn Clwb Sadwrn ar draws Cymru

Cafodd menter gwnaed-yng-Nghymru i annog mwy o ferched i gymryd rhan mewn gwyddoniaeth a pheirianneg ganmolladwy uchel gan gorff gwobrwyo adnabyddus a chaiff ei ymestyn ar draws y wlad.

Lansiwyd Clwb Sadwrn Darganfod! gan Bartneriaeth Addysg Busnes (PAB) Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro bedair blynedd yn ôl mewn cysylltiad â WISE (Menywod i Wyddoniaeth, Peirianneg ac Adeiladu) i annog merched ym Mlwyddyn 9 i ddilyn eu diddordeb mewn gwyddoniaeth, technoleg, peirianneg a mathemateg a rhoi cyfle iddynt ymchwilio cyfleoedd gyrfa nad oeddent efallai wedi'u hystyried o'r blaen. Mae'r clwb wedi cael cydnabyddiaeth ddwywaith yn rowndiau terfynol y Deymas Unedig ar gyfer Gwobrau Partneriaeth WISE a gynhelir yn Llundain.

Cynhaliwyd sesiynau eleni gan Brifysgol Caerdydd, BRASS (Canolfan Perthynas Busnes, Atebolrwydd, Cynaliadwyedd a Chymdeithas), RWE npower yng Ngorsaf Bŵer Aberddawan a British Airways Maintenance Cardiff. Yn dilyn eu llwyddiant, mae Gyrfa Cymru yn datblygu clybiau Darganfod! ledled Cymru.

Gwelliannau i'n gwasanaeth

- Rydym yn adnewyddu ein Canolfan Gyrfaoedd yn 49 Heol Holton, Y Barri i roi mwy o ofod ar gyfer cyfweliadau a gwella'r ddarbynfa. Bydd Porth Ieuenctid yn y Fro hefyd yn seiliedig yno. Y gwaith yma yw rhan olaf ein cynllun i wella cyfleusterau i gwsmeriaid oedd yn cynnwys adnewyddu Porth Ieuenctid a'n Canolfan Gyrfaoedd yn Heol Siarl, Caerdydd.
- Rydym wedi datblygu ein systemau i reoli perfformiad ein staff, gan sicrhau'r gwasanaeth gorau posibl i'n cwsmeriaid.
- Mewn arolwg diweddar, dywedodd 96 % o fyfyrwyr Blwyddyn 11 (15 a 16 oed) a holwyd y bu eu cyfweliad gyda chynghorydd gyrfaoedd yn ddefnyddiol, eithaf defnyddiol neu'n ddefnyddiol iawn.

Gweithio mewn partneriaeth @33

O'r chwith: Sharon Jones (Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Cwm Taf), Lisa Fryer (Porth Ieuenctid Gyrfa Cymru), Joe Payne (Llamau) a Steven Carroll (cymorth gweinyddiaeth).

Mae gan Gyrfa Cymru ymrwymiad i weithio gyda sefydliadau allweddol eraill i wella cefnogaeth ar gyfer pobl ifanc 16- 18 oed nad ydynt mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant ac mae wedi croesawu nifer o bartneriaid newydd yn ddiweddar i'w Ganolfan Porth Ieuenctid yn Heol Siarl, Caerdydd, a elwir yn awr yn @33, i ddatblygu'r dull gweithredu ami-asiantaeth yma.

Mae cynghorwyr Porth Ieuenctid yn rhai arweiniad a chefnogaeth barhaus i helpu pobl ifanc i oresgyn rhwystrau sy'n eu hatal rhag cael mynediad i addysg, cyflogaeth neu hyfforddiant.

Mae tîm Hyfforddwyr Dysgu o gynghorwyr gyrfaoedd a gweithwyr ieuenctid, a ariannir gan Bartneriaeth Plant a Phobl Ifanc Caerdydd a Rhwydweithiau 14-19 Caerdydd a'r Fro, hefyd yn gweithio o'r ganolfan i helpu'r rhai yr ystyrir eu bod yr anoddaf eu cyrraedd.

Bydd y dull gweithredu ami-asiantaeth newydd hefyd yn galluogi pobl ifanc i gael mynediad i wasanaethau eraill i'w helpu i ddelio gyda phroblemau a all fod yn eu hwynebu wrth iddynt symud i fywyd fel oedolion a bywyd gwaith. Yn helpu i asesu'r deientiaid mwyaf bregus yn @33 bydd Gweithiwr Meddwl Iach o Wasanaethau Iechyd Meddwl Plant a'r Glasoed, Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Cwm Taf a chynghorwyr o Action for Children.

Bydd Swyddogion Tai o Opsiynau Tai (Cyngor Caerdydd a Llamau) a gweithwr cymdeithasol o Wasanaethau Gofal Cymdeithasol Cyngor Caerdydd hefyd yn rhoi cyngor a chefnogaeth gan weithwyr cyfryngu a all asesu a chynghori pobl ifanc 16 a 17 oed sy'n ceisio help gydag ymholiadau am lety, gofal ac anghenion datblygu personol.

Mae cynghorwyr Gyrfa Cymru hefyd yn seiliedig gyda'r Gwasanaeth Troseddu Ieuenctid yng Nghaerdydd a'r Fro i helpu pobl ifanc sydd wedi troseddu.

Gyrfa Cymru Careers Wales — Sut y gwnaethom yn 2010/11

Cefnogaeth i fyfyrwyr mewn addysg uwchradd ac addysg bellach yng Nghaerdydd a Bro Morgannwg		Cyf. lawnlad	% yn erbyn y targed
Cyfweliadau		16,129	120%
Cynlluniau Symud Ymlaen		11,420	104%
Sesiynau grŵp		1,733	94%
Pobl ifanc yn cymryd rhan yn Porth Addysg, ehaglen cynhelliant i rai 14-16 oed a phobl ifanc mewn coleg		693	109%
Pobl ifanc yn derbyn cefnogaeth mentora gan gynghorwyr Porth Addysg	Cyfweliadau Sesiynau grŵp	2,442 849	144% 98%
Gweith gydia phobl ifanc gydo Datganiad o Angen Addysgol Arbennig	Cyfweliadau Adolygiadau Portio a fynychwyd Cynlluniau Dysgu o Sgiliau Sesiynau grŵp	1,025 591 153 19	139% 104% 93% 119%
Pobl ifanc a dderbyniodd gefnogaeth ar gyfer gweithgareddau addysg busnes	Ysgolion cynradd Ysgolion uwchradd	17,558 29,134	130% 108%
Nifer lleoliadau profiad gwaith a drefnwyd	14 - 16 oed 16 - 19 oed	5,484 1,047	D/G D/G
Nifer pobl ifanc a gynnwydd ran mewn busnes a mentor	12 - 16 oed 16 - 19 oed	6,659 1,670	D/G D/G
Nifer pobl ifanc yn derbyn cefnogaeth cyflogwyr ar gyfer mentora a gosod nodau unigol.		1,078	D/G
Nifer pobl ifanc yn ymwnead â sefydlu prosiectau busnes bach gydo chefnogaeth cyflogwyr	12 - 16 oed 16 - 19 oed	3,653 1,473	D/G
Nifer pobl ifanc a gynnwydd ran mewn gweithgareddau cyflenwi/datblygu cwricwlwm a gefnogir gan cyflogwyr		17, 993	D/G

Cefnogaeth i ysgolion a cholegau

Mae Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro yn gweithio'n agos gydag athrawon a darlithwyr i sicrhau fod disgyblion a myfyrwyr yn derbyn addysg ac arweiniad gyrfaoedd safon uchel. Trefnwyd 41 digwyddiad hyfforddi yn ystod y flwyddyn yn cynnwys 110 o athrawon a staff cysylltiedig. Cafodd 381 o athrawon ysgolion cynradd ac uwchradd a darlithwyr coleg hefyd eu helpu i ganfod lleoliadau gydo chyflogwyr: 92% yn erbyn y targed.

Cefnogaeth i rieni a gwarcheidwaid Cannu arolygon ma rhieni a gofalwyr yw'r dylanwad mwyaf ar benderfyniadau gyrfa eu plant.		
Trafodaethau gyda rhieni	1,257	D/G
Nosweithiau rhieni a fynychwyd	75	D/G
Llythyrau at rieni mytynwyr yn mlynyddoedd 7, 9, 10, 11 a 12	23,175	D/G

Cefnogaeth i bobl ifanc sydd wedi gadael addysg lawn-amser		
Cyfweliadau gan gynghorwyr gyrfaoedd yn ein canolfannau	2,151	99%
Cyfweliadau gan gynghorwyr gyrfaoedd gyda phobl ifanc gyda Datganiad o Angen Addysgol Arbennig	459	D/G
Cyfweliadau gan gynhorthwyr gyrfaoedd	3,334	91%
Canlyniadau arweiniad ysgrifenedig	2,310	139%
Nifer pobl ifanc a ddodwyd yn y Porth Ieuenctid	524	95%
Nifer pobl ifanc a ddodwyd mewn cyflogaeth	286	D/G
Nifer pobl ifanc a ddodwyd mewn hyfforddiant unliedig ar waith	1,542	D/G
Cyfweliadau gyda phobl ifanc yn y Porth Ieuenctid	7,096	129%
Cynlluniau Symud Ymlaen ar gyfer pobl ifanc yn y Porth Ieuenctid	1,090	103%
Sesiynau grŵp ar gyfer pobl ifanc yn y Porth Ieuenctid	5,020	96%

Cefnogaeth i oedolion		
Cyfweliadau gan gynghorwyr gyrfaoedd	6,346	110%
Ohonynt: Cyfweliadau gydag oedolion di-waith	1,833	D/G
Cyfweliadau gydag oedolion o gafodd rybudd dilos swydd yn cynnwys rhai o gynorthwyir dan ReAct	1,905	D/G
Cyfweliadau gan gynhorthwyr gwybodaeth	3,203	107%
Arweiniad ysgrifenedig ar ganlyniadau	4,888	105%
Sesiynau grŵp	85	106%

Llinell gymorth genedlaethol Cyngor Dysgu o Gyrfaoedd 0800 100 900
Y llynedd derbynodd y llinell gymorth 31,028 galwad ffôn a 598 negas e-bost, o bob rhan o Gymru

Gweithio gyda chyflogwyr		
Ymweliadau i cyflogwyr	1,494	127%
Swyddi gwag a hysbyswyd	434	D/G
Cyflogwyr yn cefnogi gweithgareddau addysg busnes	3,789	149%

Ariannir Gyrfa Cymru gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Roedd cost ein gwasanaethau am y flwyddyn 1 Ebrill 2010 - 31 Mawrth 2011 tua £2.89 y mis i bob oelwyd yng Nghaerdydd a Bro Morgannwg.

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Gwerthfawrogwn eich sylwadau. Os oes gennych unrhyw gwestiynau, sylwadau neu awgrymiadau am ein gwasanaethau cysylltwch os gwelwch yn dda ag:

Avril Jackson, Rheolydd Marchnata, Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro,
53 Heol Siarl, Caerdydd CF10 2GD Ffôn: 029 2090 6700
neu e-bost avril.jackson@cardiffandvale.org.uk.

Out and About with The GEM

Espionage thriller is a low-key delight that drips with tension

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

YOU can never be too careful in the world of espionage... double agents, threats on your life and henchmen with metallic teeth make it a dangerous line of work – and one that writer John Le Carre has successfully mined.

It is his most notable work that makes its way onto the big screen in *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, which was already a huge success on BBC television in the late 1970s with Alec Guinness.

This time, Gary Oldman takes on the role of George Smiley, brought out of retirement to track down a mole in MI6, who threatens to destabilise the nation.

With the suspects lined up (including Colin Firth, Toby Jones and Ciaran Hinds), Smiley must undergo a game of cat and mouse where no-one is who they seem, and twists and turns are around every corner...

If *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* had the uphill task of attempting to live up to John Le Carre's original book, then it was a task made all the more difficult given that it would inevitably be compared to the 1979 TV mini-series starring Sir Alec Guinness as Smiley.

Despite this pressure, the 2011 version is something that more than holds up to both of these, and taken on its own terms is a low-key thriller that places tension and drama to the forefront, creating a film that barely lets up over its 127-minute running time.

It is marshalled with no little class by Tomas Alfredson, the Swedish director responsible for the wonderful vampire film *Let The Right One In*.

Here, Alfredson is dealing with those who are just as vampiric but without the bloodlust, the denizens of MI6 a cold, unforgiving bunch whose stillness in the eyes masks a sea of betrayals and double dealings, each character just another jellybean in the jar of espionage.

Much like his breakthrough effort, Alfredson shows he is a director who is happy to let the story take centre stage, his direction never overtly fancy but assured and clinical, from the mute colour patterns to the detatchment of the performances he wrings out of the skilled cast.

Given that this is a film more about bureaucracy then action sequences, Alfredson's calm eye provides the focus that allows Peter Straughan and Bridget O'Connor's screenplay to shine through.

Certainly, the pair have the most difficult job, having to condense Le Carre's prose into a cohesive two-hour film (even the miniseries had seven hours to do it in), but that they manage to do so with such efficiency is a testament to their skill.

Instead, very little is lost from the overall story, even if some characters do suffer from a degree of sidelining (in particular, those played by Kathy Burke and Ciaran Hinds) but the story is dense and rich enough to absorb this.

It also gives a cast that is more or less the cream of the British crop the opportunity to work on such superb material, and each actor thrives, delivering strong turns.

Top of these is Gary Oldman, whose support turns in the likes of the *Batman* and *Harry Potter* franchises has perhaps masked his ability to hold the attention as a leading man.

It is an ability that is all too much in evidence here, Oldman holding the screen rapt, his performance a tightly-coiled one that betrays little emotion, but is totally engaging.

He has rightly snared the majority of the plaudits, but there is no weak turn anywhere, with the likes of Colin Firth, Ciaran Hinds, David Dencik and Toby Jones doing their best 'is-he-or-isn't-he' as the suspected moles; while both Tom Hardy and Benedict Cumberbatch do their rising stars no damage at all with two wonderful turns.

The former is all brawn 'n' brains belying his tiredness while skulking around in the shadows doing the dirty work while the latter is a man caught up in a maze of skulduggery that impacts upon his private life.

Throw in another superb turn by the understated, and underrated, Mark Strong, along with the likes of John Hurt and Stephen Graham, and you have one of the finest ensemble casts of the year, and one that delivers in spades.

If there is any complaint to be made, then it is that the film's languid pace sometimes feels a little too languid, while the story is one that must be followed intently, else the big reveal comes off more as a damp squib.

However, those who want to see the best British talent excel in a rich and satisfying story should most certainly savour *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy.*

VERDICT: A tense and dramatic affair, *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* is a classy affair with some of the finest British actors working today in top form. Tomas Alfredson's direction is suitably muted and moody.

It all comes together to make for a truly outstanding cinematic effort.

Essential viewing.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Thirteen Days* (2000), *The Third Man* (1949), *The Quiet American* (2002).

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D688.

- **£2,000:** 679912.
- **£500:** No winner.
- **£10:** 394694, 137567, 433456, 671415, 195385, 316534, 684129, 557096, 662140, 509049, 876668, 156940, 278945, 416056, 214508, 470483, 887077, 479121, 606505, 211345.
- **£5:** 125091, 110497, 591327, 137692, 791120, 543427, 137741, 869842, 579977, 307247, 498664, 685166, 936978, 214184, 841628, 149387, 272737, 544196, 877119, 763573, 600893, 341163, 175829, 681857, 729683, 746247, 472681, 739339, 830346, 585873, 367756, 309117, 656548, 523283, 755644, 743393, 192225, 203552, 852230, 484439, 747488, 245311, 309244, 838733, 712758, 532916, 854509, 272971, 110011, 425629, 264760, 820947, 257507, 151688, 611392, 709109, 784802, 422037, 871545, 491480.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information, please telephone 02920 672062.

Welsh artists' work on show in Vale art gallery

THE work of Welsh artists is being shown at an exhibition in Art Central gallery in Barry.

The touring exhibition, 'Express Yourself', has been created from submissions to the first ever Welsh libraries arts competition.

Over 1,600 entries were received covering a range of disciplines including creative writing, visual arts and short films. The theme for the competition was 'libraries'.

Chris Edwards, Vale principal librarian, said: "Local student Donna Thomas, from St Richard Gwyn High School, was chosen as the overall winner for the best piece of art work submitted from the Vale of Glamorgan.

"Her painting, entitled 'The Magic World of Books' was one of 60 art works entered into the competition by individuals and local groups.

"Donna's painting has returned to the Vale and is part of the exhibition, after over nine months of travelling around Wales."

'Express Yourself' runs at Art Central until October 1 and admission is free. Art Central is open Tuesdays to Saturday from 10am-4pm.

RUMMAGE SALE

THERE will be a charity rummage sale at the church hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, on Saturday, September 24 (10am-11.30am).

Entry (50p) includes *coffee and biscuits.*

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Christmas Party Lunch Menu £15.95
~~~
*Christmas Party Evening Menu £22.75*

PARSNIP & APPLE SOUP
*with organic French bread*
CHICKEN LIVER PARFAIT
*served with marrow chutney & toasted ciabatta*
HOME-CURED SALMON
*marinated in honey and whisky with an orange and watercress salad*
PAUPIETTE OF WOOD PIGEON
*wrapped in savoy cabbage & smoked pancetta with ruby coleslaw*
WARM POACHED PEAR
*glazed with Perl Las cheese with cranberry & walnut salad*
~~~
BUTTER ROASTED GLAMORGAN TURKEY
with traditional garnish, sage and chestnut stuffing and cranberry sauce
PAN-FRIED SUPREME OF PHEASANT
Confit thigh, braised red cabbage, crispy onions & game jus
PAN-SEARED SWORDFISH LOIN
served with cucumber, red onion salsa & tikka masala sauce
SLOW BRAISED BELLY PORK
on bubble & squeak with baby carrots & onion & thyme sauce
ROASTED SALMON FILLET
set on a crab, lemon & tarragon risotto
ROASTED BUTTERNUT SQUASH & RED PEPPER TARTLET
topped with parmesan crumble & a marinated mixed bean salad
~~~
TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS PUDDING *with brandy sauce*
LEMON POSSET *with macerated dried fruits & homemade shortbread*
BAKED CARAMELISED APPLE & FRAGIPANE TART
*with a vanilla mascarpone cream*
COFFEE & AMARETTO CREME BRULEE *served with Amaretti biscuits*
CHEFS SELECTION OF WELSH CHEESES *served with biscuits, grapes & celery*
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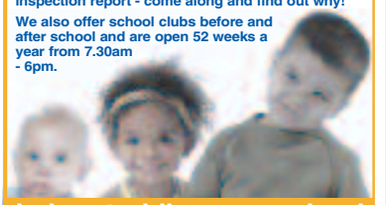

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Skipper's hat-trick gives Llantwit Major reserves yet another three points!

LLANTWIT MAJOR RESERVES 4
COGAN CORONATION RESERVES 2

LLANTWIT Major Reserves made it a hat-trick of wins on the bounce with an excellent victory over Cogan Coronation at Windmill Lane.

The visitors took the lead with the first move of the match when the Cogan number 10 sent a free kick fizzing into the top corner to leave Llantwit 'keeper Jackson no chance. There had been a slight deflection off player-manager Dave Callard's head.

The next 30 minutes were dull, and Llantwit scored with their first real controlled attack. Dave Bevan and Lee Tracey linked well to release Tom Bevan down the left flank.

Bevan powered into the box and with the 'keeper and defender closing in the striker toe poked the ball into the net for his third of the campaign.

Llantwit now started to gain a foothold, and could have added two further goals in quick succession.

That said, parity at the interval was probably a fair reflection of a turgid affair.

Manager Grafton had a few choice words with his lethargic cohorts at the break, emphasising the importance of playing the ball on the floor while also raising the tempo of passing and movement.

There was an immediate improvement, and it was only a matter of time before the home team scored again, through captain for the day Stephen Phillips, who finished well after excellent work by substitute Gethin Jennings.

Phillips bagged his brace shortly after when a sinuous team move found the industrious Austin out wide. His splendid cutback was met perfectly by the big number 9 to smash home.

The home team now took their foot off the gas and started to lose a bit of shape which allowed Cogan to have their best spell of the match.

However the back four of Tracey, Grahame, Callard and Howles held the visitors at arms length, while keeper Jackson comfortably dealt with the long range efforts which were all the visitors could muster.

With 20 minutes remaining, a momentary lapse in concentration gave Cogan a lifeline. The Llantwit defensive wall took an eternity to line up and while they were doing so the striker curled the ball past Jackson.

More changes in personnel were made to liven things up. Substitutes Andy Gordon and Craig Bright gave Llantwit the spark of enthusiasm they needed.

The home team's fourth goal came with quarter of an hour remaining. Tom Bevan leapt at the far post to nod the ball into the path of Phillips and the outcome was a formality as the Llantwit striker rounded off the scoring as he secured a remarkable hat-trick.

Man of the match was deservedly awarded to Phillips for another lung-bursting display of running, accompanied by three fine goals.

Llantwit: M Jackson, T Howles, D Callard, J Grahame, L Tracey, T Bevan, J Preece, D Bevan, S Phillips (captain), J Austin, D White. Subs: J Hartley, A Gordon, I Phillips, G Jennings, C Bright.

DC

Squash season makes a start

A NEW season is about to start at Cowbridge Squash Club.

A club spokesman said: "During the summer a lot of work has been done to bring the courts back to their usual high standard and this year, with new insulation, the club should be warmer than ever.

"The club will be hosting three men's teams, playing on Wednesdays and Thursdays from approx 7pm.

"Team matches have already started with the men's A Team on the trail of yet another promotion in the South Wales League.

"The junior section have also started playing and this proved very successful last year under the guidance Nial Sloan and Julie Clode, both fully-qualified level 2 Welsh SRA coaches.

"Juniors between the ages of seven to 15 are welcome to come along and try their hand at squash. Rackets are supplied by the club for new starters. Coaching is on Saturday morning between 10am and midday."

For information on joining, or on renewing subscriptions, telephone Clive Prigg on 01446 773729.

WELSH BOWLS TEAM TRAINS IN RHOOSE

The Welsh Atlantic Championship team are pictured with their manager, Hazel Wilson.

AS part of the final preparations for the Atlantic Championships in Cyprus and the European Games in Portugal, the Welsh Women's Bowling Association staged a successful training camp based at Rhoose Bowling Club on Saturday and Sunday.

As well as practice sessions at both Rhoose BC and Sully IBC, players and officials benefited from informative presentations from the Sport Wales team.

Team manager Hazel Wilson, said: "The weekend was an excellent team building exercise for our two teams who are competing at top events in the next couple of months and we thank Rhoose Bowling Club for their welcome and hospitality."

CH

Cowbridge Second XV have no bench to call on

COWBRIDGE Second XV entertained Seaview Barry with a bare fifteen but took the game to the opposition.

Good work by the pack delivered the ball to the backs and centre Aaron Glassar crossed for a try that outside-half Mike Lloyd converted.

Further pressure brought a penalty that Lloyd converted and a credible halftime score of 10-12.

In the second half, a couple of injuries and a strong showing by Seaview saw them run out winners by 10-35.

THE youth team travelled to Cardiff HSOB and despite losing 26-0, showed plenty of potential and promise.

It was 19-0 at half time so a good second half reduced HSOB to only one further try; a good first start from a young team.

THIS Saturday, the First XV complete their September fixtures with a home game against Banwen, kick off 2.30pm, while the Seconds have a Saturday off.

All support for the Banwen match would be much appreciated.

Team manager Dai Breed requests the return of the scissors from the medical bag. Please contact him to return them on 07896 997016 – no questions asked!

RV/RK

Cowbridge under-9s impress in tournament

AN unsettled day saw Cowbridge field two under-9 teams in the Llantwit Major tournament.

Cowbridge Red team opened their campaign against Llantwit Major, who scored a quick first try.

However, Cowbridge showed a big improvement after the previous week, and Jake Williams levelled the scores just before the break.

Good pressure in defence and some ferocious tackling early in the second half resulted in a turnover. After a good period of attacking play, Cowbridge were awarded a penalty try after David Harris was double teamed after crossing the line.

Some excellent tackling and turnovers followed but there was no further score from either team.

Cowbridge Reds played Barry Gees and were caught napping again at the kick off, conceding an early try.

Cowbridge came back and went 2–1 up with tries by Oliver Jarmaine and Jake Williams.

Barry levelled just before the break. Jake crossed the line again in the second half, and Jack Riley made it 4–2 after good defence forced a turnover.

Barry scored but the final score was 4–3 to Cowbridge, putting them through to the semi-finals.

Cowbridge's orange team met Barry in their first pool game, drawing 3–3, with tries by Tom Johnson (two) and James Gilvear.

In their next two games, however, the team played a strong Penarth side, and also the eventual winners, Llanishen.

Against Penarth, Cowbridge seemed a little too eager to offload the ball allowing the Penarth team to run in five tries.

Against Llanishen, they were outplayed in the first half and, facing a 3 – 0 score line, a gutsy performance at the start of the second half saw them open the scoring with an excellent try from Jay Downes.

The team competed better in the second half, but were unable to stop Llanishen from scoring two further tries.

Cowbridge Reds played Penarth, and fared no better than the orange team. There were differing interpretations of the restart, and Penarth eventually ran out winners by 5–1. Charlie Locke scored the Cowbridge try.

Squads: Cowbridge Red: Ioan Davies, David Harris, Harri Howkins, Oliver Jarmaine, Aled Leitch, Charlie Locke, Jack Riley, Harry Whittaker, Dewi Williams and Jake Williams.

Cowbridge Orange: Iwan-Thomas Bartle, Jay Downes, James Gilvear, Matthew Gilvear, Robbie Hawkins, Ellis Howell, Tom Johnson, McKinley Parsons, Tom Pugh and Rhys Williams.

GW

Trophy goes to bowler Jo

THE ladies' section of Rhoose Bowling Club concluded their competitions recently with their Millennium Plate Competition.

After three hours of bowling, the semi-final stage saw captain Anita Shears face Mary Thomas, and Jo Hopkins face Sue Dance.

In her match, Anita built up a lead of three shots by the eighth end. Then Mary won the next four ends to level the match at seven each.

Mary took the lead 9–8 on the 14th end but it was Anita who scored two shots on the final end to win by a single shot.

In the other semi, Jo Hopkins led by 10–4 by the ninth end. Sue fought back and by the 14th was just one shot behind. The final end saw Jo secure a maximum two shots to win by 14–11.

In the final, the match swung back and forth. By the 12th end, Jo led by 9–6. Anita scored one on the next end but Jo then secured the two she needed for victory, winning by 10–7.

Phil Watts presented the shield to Jo because it was his late wife Ruth who had presented the shield to the Club.

West End make a good start to season

CODEWORKS Westend Netball Club's two teams played their first games in the Cardiff League at Sophia Gardens.

Both teams got off to a flying start, taking the lead early on. Westend 2 played Finance Wales and played really well, but were unfortunately beaten in the last few minutes, with a final score of 23-24.

Westend 1 took on Llanrumney Incredibles and led each quarter for a final score of Westend 1 39, Llanrumney Incredibles 16

On Monday, September 19, Westend 2 had their second game and, while the score was tight through each quarter, they manage to intercept the last few centre passes and took the game.

Final score: Westend 2 24, Llanrumney

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It has been well publicised that several pubs are closing in Wales every week - happily that is not the case in the Vale; in fact, many establishments are reporting record business levels.

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Criteria to consider

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Drinks (Alcohol & quality coffees & teas)
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Garden/outdoor appearances/flower baskets etc
Innovation & Diversity - new ideas, i.e. offering a take-away service
Standards of toilets and general cleanliness
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Music/Guest entertainers
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Green credentials, eg: commitment to recycling of food waste, rain water for watering plants, etc.

What to do next…

Enter by email or post – closing date is Friday, 30th September, 2011.
You must supply your name, address and land-line telephone number.
Tell us, in no more than 100 words, why you believe your local is the best.
State the name of the landlord/landlady, pub name and location, and how often you visit.
Send your entries, marked 'Prize Pub' to: **The GEM, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL** or email: **gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk**

Terms & Conditions

The five pubs that receive the most entries will be visited by a mystery diner/judge, whereupon the winner will be decided. The winner will be announced in The GEM in October. No correspondence concerning the decision will be entered into. The judge's decision is final.

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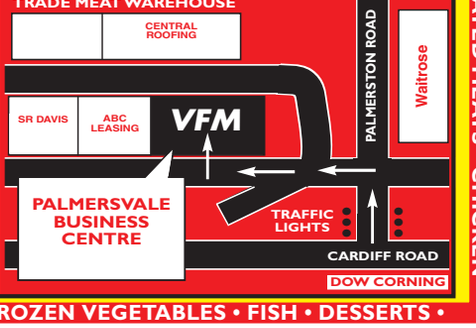

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Barry Youth start new season with conclusive victory

BARRY Youth pulled off a fine win on Saturday in their first match of the season, when they played hosts to Taffs Well.

Playing in blustery conditions and with a wet ball, both teams managed to put on a good display.

The home pack competed well in the rucks and mauls, and the line outs went well, with solid lifting making it easy for hooker Campbell Prosser to find his man.

The ball won by the Barry pack was put to good use when No8 Luke O'Sullivan crossed, following a sustained attack in the opposition 22.

Scrum-half Rhidian Mepham went over from the back of the scrum 10 minutes later but was deemed held up by the referee, and an attacking scrum was re-set. From this, Jake Connelly crossed following quick passing.

The second half saw the Barry pack pressure their opponents, causing them to make errors. From loose play, Luke O'Sullivan received a pass and drove through the opposition, breaking tackles almost at will.

When he seemed to be finally caught, he made one more massive effort, broke a tackle and went over under the posts for his second try.

Barry then went further ahead when Mike Hamonda gratefully received and ran in from 60 metres.

With the front five driving hard in the scrums, flankers Williamson and Giddings were able to break at will, and second half back-row substitute Jake Goodfellow, making his debut, was also instrumental in winning the ball.

Although the score showed the visitors were four tries down at this juncture, this was not a true reflection of the game, as they came close on many occasions but were denied by solid tackling.

Their spirit was finally quashed when Jordan Sheeky, playing out of position at second row, ripped from a maul and drove over for Barry's fifth try.

With no kicking tee available, outside half Jordan Fynn did well with three from five drop-kick conversions. The final score was 31-0.

Team: Morgan Howells-Davies, Campbell Prosser, Tom Ellis, Jordan Sheeky, Josh Westall, Andre Williamson, Luke Giddings, Luke O'Sullivan, Rhidian Mepham, Jordan Flynn, Mike Hamonda, Ryan Case, Jake Connelly, Ethan Dicks, Jordan Clarke, Blake Wall, Nathan Harris, Jake Goodfellow, David Evans and Stefan Kadach.

MM

Away day for Dinas seniors

DINAS POWYS Golf Club seniors had their annual away day recently at Peterstone Lakes Golf Club under the captaincy of John Ingram.

The day was a great success and the event was won by Andy Smith with 36 stableford points. Mike Constantinos was second with 32 and third was Mr John Sourlis on countback (32).

The day was concluded with a celebration dinner at the golf club. **HM**

Young Ben is the new Barry tennis champ

Ben Rose (left), the new Barry Junior Tennis Champion and runner-up Harri Williams, right, with Harry Morgan, Barry Tennis Club's junior development officer

IN an epic junior final at Barry Tennis Club, Ben Rose (13) beat Harri Williams, also 13, by ten games to 9.

The youngsters produced excellent rallies despite dreadful weather.

A total of 11 members of Barry's junior section took part.

Roy Gibson, the club's treasurer said: "Both players have improved considerably since they joined us last year. Our thanks go to Harry Morgan, the club's junior development officer."

Previously, among the grown-ups, Julie Claypole and Martin Edwards won the mixed doubles event with Nicola Davies and Allen Oliver runners-up.

Roy Gibson and Oliver Hartery won the moderate doubles event and Allen Oliver and Colin Hatton were runners up.

AG

CALLING ALL LOCAL SPORTS CLUBS!

We welcome your sports reports, news and other items of interest - email us at:

gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Under-14s make it six out of six!

A HASTILY arranged fixture against Llantwit Major under-14s saw Barry RFC runaway victors, amassing nine tries and giving them a total of six wins in six games this season.

Welcoming Llantwit to a blustery Reservoir Field last Sunday, the Barry boys were looking forward to this local derby.

On their arrival, Barry were somewhat overwhelmed by the physicality of the visitors who looked wider, heavier and meatier.

From the whistle, Llantwit used their size to their advantage and soon took residence in Barry's 22.

The home side soon warmed up and started to flex their own muscles and show the visitors that they might not be the biggest team on the circuit, but they are one of the most talented.

Keeping it simple, with forwards providing quick ruck ball peppered with the pick-and-drive, Barry soon had the visitors on the back foot and ran in the first of their tries from five metres down the blindside.

Tries two, three and four soon followed with captain Cameron Gibbon converting.

The home side had clearly lulled the visitors into a false sense of security and, despite the difference in physicality, Barry demonstrated skill, composure, tenacity and character during the first half, which saw them come away as leaders by 22-0 at the interval.

There was no let up during the second half and a further five scores followed, with a fine conversion from utility forward Iwan Baker, who switched from back row to front row with confidence.

Barry again soaked up the pressure from the Llantwit boys and kept their nerve and cool to ensure that they once again kept a clean sheett.

At the final whistle, the home side were ecstatic having come away 49-0 victors.

The whole squad had a run-out and a number of players made a huge impact on the result, with one player, Ben Dwyer, singled out for particular praise,

He really made an impression with some outstanding loose play and was a real presence up front.

Barry tries: Ben Dwyer, Mo Evans (two), Cam Gibbon, Scott Griffith (two), Callum Mickelsen (two), Morgan Wheeler.

Barry conversions: Cam Gibbon, Iwan Baker.

If you are an experienced rugby player and are looking to join Barry RFC under-14s please contact Ioan Evans on 07764 256 428.

IE

BARRIVALE BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

THE latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club are as follows:

Tuesday, September 13.

First, Mike Close and Tim Barsby with 63.54 per cent; second, Eileen Hughes and Carol James (56.25); third, Helen Jordan and Judith Owen (54.69).

Helen and Judith won on handicap.

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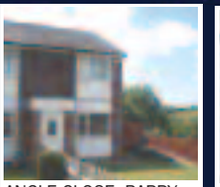

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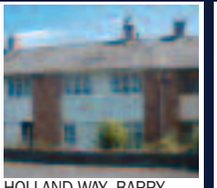

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Liz, Kath and Amanda wish to thank all relatives and friends for their kind messages of sympathy, attendance at the funeral service and donations given in memory of Alan to Marie Curie Cancer Care and the Lymphoma Association.
A special thanks to the District Nurses, and also the Staff at the Haematology Day Centre and Ward B4 at the Heath Hospital.

ROBERTS
Mel

Peacefully on 16th September in Morriston Hospital. Mel aged 56 years of Llantwit Major. Beloved husband of Gaynor. Dearly loved dad to Sheryl and Barrie. Father in law to Mark and Sam, devoted Taido to Shannon, Nathan, Reece, Tomos, Sophie and Mya. A much loved son to Bob and the late Marian and a loving brother to Liz and Glyn. Mel will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium (where all please meet) on Tuesday 27th September at 10·30am. Family flowers only please, but donations (Cheques only) for Cardiac I.T.U Endowment Fund (at Morriston Hospital) may be given to the Funeral Director. All enquiries to W A Brown and Son, Llantwit Major 01446 792489.

OSTERBERG
Doreen

On 15th September 2011, Doreen aged 81 years of Llantwit Major, passed away in the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. Beloved wife of Ray, dearly loved mother of Karen, mother in law of Ross, a devoted Nana to Charley and a much loved sister to Alan and Robby. Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Thursday 22nd September at 2·45pm (Where all please meet). Flowers may be sent to the funeral home or if wished donations for The Blue Cross (an animal charity) may be sent to the Funeral Director (Cheques only please). All enquiries to W A Brown & Son Pembroke House, College Street, Llantwit Major, CF61 1SG. 01446 792489.

JONES, Paul

Tragically on 15th September, Paul of Llantwit Major (In2Net Wales). Beloved partner to Julie, and a much loved dad to Tomos. Much loved son of Lyndon and Linda, a loving brother to Allyson. Paul will be greatly missed by all his loving family and many friends.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Monday, 26th September at 10am (all meet here please).

Family flowers only. If wished donations may be sent to either Scope or Cancer Research UK.

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Public Notice

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990. Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995.

Development that may affect a Conservation Area
Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2011/00870/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Remove a 4 metre wide section of an 1850 to 2150 mm high solid brick wall, and replace with solid gates approximately 1800 mm high - painted white to match existing boundary wall.
Location:/Lleoliad: 16, Heol St. Cattwg, Pendoylan, Cowbridge.
Conservation Area:/Ardal Gadwraeth: Pendoylan.

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2011/00879/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Change of use to reinstate vacant Family Centre back to residential use.
Location:/Lleoliad: 14, Albert Crescent, Penarth.
Conservation Area:/Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth.

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2011/00785/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Addition of Solar Photovoltaic Panels.
Location:/Lleoliad: 4, Little Orchard, Dinas Powys.
Listed Building:/Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II.

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2011/00905/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Installation of 3.87KW photovolataic array.
Location:/Lleoliad: Gwyn House, 56, Eastgate, Cowbridge.
Listed Building:/Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II.

Application(s) of General Interest
Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2011/00887/RES
Proposal:/Cynnig: The plot substitution of Plots 1,2, 20, 21, 32, 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, 43, 53, 66 and 67 for alternative houses types.
Location:/Lleoliad: Land to the East of Pencoedtre Lane, Barry.

May affect a Public Right of Way
Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2011/00887/RES
Proposal:/Cynnig: The plot substitution of Plots 1,2, 20, 21, 32, 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, 43, 53, 66 and 67 for alternative houses types.
Location:/Lleoliad: Land to the East of Pencoedtre Lane, Barry.

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy.
Dated / Dyddiedig: 22 September, 2011.

Rob Thomas, Head of Planning, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4R.

Sea View are in command

Cowbridge RFC Second XV	**10**
Sea View RFC	**33**

SATURDAY saw Sea View's first away league fixture of the season, venturing into the depths of the Vale with a visit to Cowbridge.

With both the Ravens and the Second XV matches called off, the View took the field in front of a large and vocal crowd, well and truly outnumbering the home crowd.

Cowbridge took the lead with a converted try and a penalty and, but for some sterling defensive work from the View, the lead could have been larger.

The View dug in and a series of drives from the back row of O'Connell, Ford and Azzopardi drove the Islanders into the Cowbridge half.

Early injuries saw a reshuffle of the View back line, Chris Brown replacing the injured Bussy.

With James Braithwaite controlling things at half back, a deft pass set Joe Maytum on a drive for the line.

Cowbridge gave away a penalty, and after a quick tap and go, scrum half Reth Davies darted over the line to score by the post. Impatience to get on with the game led to the conversion being missed.

From the kick-off the View attacked and substitute Chris Brown broke through to score under the posts. Making up for his earlier miss, Jake Williams slotted the conversion to give the View the lead 10-12 at half-time.

They extended their lead when Leon Ford stormed through to score under the posts.

Cowbridge fought back but were unable to cope with the sustained pressure from the View forwards.

The front row of Matt James, Nathan Pearson and Matt Stanger had immense games in the loose, the second row of Maytum and Lowes continually drove over the gain line to produce a platform for the View backs, and deft runs from Josh Barker and Tom Martin began to tell.

Another View attack saw Jake Williams, despite being tackled by two Cowbridge players, pass to Tom Martin, who blazed over the line for the View's fourth try.

Late on, Nathan Harding took a lovely pass from Matt O'Connell, drew the defence and popped the ball out for Jake Williams to storm over for a fifth and final try. **Final score 10-33.**

But for the teeming rain resulting in handling errors, Sea View could have scored several more tries. Our thanks to Cowbridge for their post match hospitality and to our travelling support!

This week the View are at home to Sully Sports RFC, kick off 2.30pm.

MV

Pumas are in confident mood

BARRY Pumas FC faced Acme Revolution for the second consecutive week, but this time it was a matter of getting ponts in Lazarou Division Two.

After last week's 5-1 cup victory, Pumas were feeling confident and they had every right to be when they went 1-0 up after 15 minutes.

Anthony King's cross found the head of Brian Gillen to put the Pumas into the lead, but Revolution replied quickly to level the scores.

Pumas went into the break 2-1 up when Chris Scott scored from close range just before the half-time whistle.

Both teams had their chances in the second half but it was the Barry team who made them count.

Matthew Davie scored after a marauding run and Scott added his second when he placed the ball into the corner of the net from the edge of the 18-yard box for a final score of 4-1.

MORGAN STEPHENS

Lord's Taverners swing by Porthcawl

THE Lord's Taverners Wales Region is getting in the swing for its annual Ian Spratling Memorial Golf Day, hoping to raise thousands of pounds to help children with special needs get involved in sport.

This year's event, which takes place at The Royal Porthcawl Golf Club on September 29, will see Tregib Comprehensive School presented with a wheelchair accessible minibus by Taverners Wales region chairman, Ed Meggitt.

As well as specially adapted minibuses, the Lord's Taverners donates all kinds of sporting equipment to disadvantaged youngsters.

For more information, visit www.lordstaverners.org/local-region/wales

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Successful year for the Romilly ladies

ROMILLY Ladies have ended their season on a high.

In the Glamorgan Championships at Bridgend Municipal, the club was well represented and, unlike other years, managed to win the triples through Marilyn Werner, Beryl Holmes and Myra Newman, and the rinks through Marilyn Werner, Brenda Freeman, Beryl Holmes and Myra Newman.

In the two-wood pairs, Marilyn Werner and Beryl Holmes were finalists at the end of a very busy two days.

The club were in third place in the new A section of the afternoon league. Our congratulations go to Barry Plastics on their victory.

In the evening league and ladies double rink, the club finished third.

The Ladies Club Championship was won by Kathy Bryan, after a close-fought match against Beryl Holmes.

If anyone would like to join Romilly Bowls Club, it reopens on April 22, 2012.

Beginners can learn the basics during the winter at coaching sessions run at the Sully Indoor Stadium.

For details, telephone 02920 530999.

BCH

Left to right: Marilyn Werner, Beryl Holmes, Glamorgan president Marian Thomas, Brenda Freeman and Myra Newman.

Barry under-9s step up from TAG

BARRY Atoms under-9s took a step up from TAG to contact rugby in Llantwit Major's tournament on September 11.

In their first contact games they performed admirably. First up were Cowbridge, and this was a thrilling game that saw both sides play some outstanding rugby. A draw was a credible result.

Next came Penarth, and they proved too much for Barry, yet the team's heads never went down.

The third and final game was against Llanishen and it was end to end, with some great tackling and passing. Barry came close, but lost out by one try.

The Barry side have made a smooth transition to contact rugby. The teamwork shone through, and the future looks bright – well done to all involved.

Squad: Z Fifield, D Griffiths, C Denbury, J Couch, E Galsworthy, J Reid, M Boffy, I Escott, J Parry, T Pugh, J Parry and D Wall.

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This model has carried over into vehicle manufacturing, too.

One proponent of this theory is Seat, the Spanish car manufacturer.

For the past 60 years it has made a name for itself by altering the designs of its owners, which have included Fiat and since 1986, Volkswagen.

Where I have always thought of VWs as clinical, characterless and a bit run-of-the- mill, Seat is a complete contrast.

'Quirky' is a word that instantly springs to mind when confronted by the Seat Leon SE Copa 1.6 TDi DSG-auto. Seat's design department has considered all the rather dull and mundane parts of a car and somehow made them objects of fascination.

For instance, the distinctive S logo (which is reminiscent of a road to look at) on the boot doubles up as a handle. Push the top and the bottom half protrudes making a convenient lip for your hand to lift the boot open. A neat touch.

This five-door model is deceptive because it looks like a three-door – the rear door handles have been concealed. Seat hasn't just blindly followed Honda and Alfa either (who do the same), because it has actually moulded and curved the glass by the rear doors so that a hand snuggly fits behind the door handle. It's hard not to keep touching this as it's so appealing.

Where traditional windscreen wipers sit at the bottom of the screen and move from left to right, the Seat's reside at the left and right of the windscreen working their way downwards and then back up.

On the rear window, the washer for the wiper sprays water upwards rather than downwards as is usually the way.

It just goes to show that there are always two ways of looking at things in life and I must say that the Spanish way is very refreshing.

The vehicle's exterior is eye-catching thanks to its sweeping curves and large chrome and black front grille. All really impressive stuff that is instantly noticeable compared to other cars on the road.

Underneath, the Leon, which was first introduced in 2005, is basically a VW Golf. It shares the same 1.6TDi engine, which very pleasingly delivers over 60mpg (combined). Coupled to a smooth automatic gearbox the Seat is a delight to drive with the extra oomph needed for overtaking, helped by its sports mode function.

It is very rare for a car to benefit from both power and economy. There is a slight delay when you put your foot down and a muffled engine noise can be heard from inside the cabin on start-up but this quickly vanishes. Overall it's an impressive 1.6 diesel.

The only minor irritation is the cruise control, which is on the left stalk of the steering wheel where the indicators are located. If the driver is too keen to press the cruise control they can set the indicators off. It might have been better situated on the actual steering wheel as some manufacturers like Mitsubishi do.

Blacked out rear windows add a hint of the cool factor. The boot is a reasonable size – large enough for my daughter's cumbersome pushchair.

Parkers, the car guide, says: "Seat has a reputation for producing sporty cars based on reliable Volkswagen components and the Leon shows the company at its best. The sporty styling is reflected in the handling - the Leon is sharp, precise and great fun to drive. In 2009 the Leon was revised with subtle exterior changes, a more sophisticated interior and new engines. There are also Ecomotive models, some of which qualify for free road tax."

All in all, the Seat Leon is a fantastic package. Seat recognises the importance of differentiating itself from its competitors, and for this it scores very highly indeed. It's not often that I test drive a car and think I could happily own it.

New price range £14,635 - £19,225 (Copa); Used price range £3,664 - £14,652.

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54 (04) SUBARU Impreza WRX Turbo in metallic grey.1994cc, 5-dr hatchback, a/c, alloy wheels, fsh, alarm, sports seats, 165bhp, 2 keys, 89k.....**£4,295**

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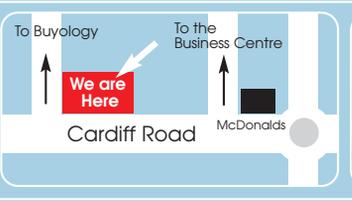

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GEM sport

BRUISING CHALLENGE IS OVERCOME, AND SUDDENLY, A NORTHERN HEMISPHERE QUARTER FINAL IS IN THE OFFING...

Wales prove a point against Samoa, now they must finally start *believing*!

BACK PAGE COMMENT
by Don John

DESPITE the confident noises emanating from the Welsh camp, there was no disguising the underlying tension in the days before their crucial World Cup clash with old nemesis Samoa in Hamilton, at the weekend.

"*We must win on Sunday, it's the bottom line... There are no second chances after Sunday... It's that important to us*," **head coach Warren Gatland repeatedly warned.**

Yes, they had been "very disappointed" at the 16-17 loss to world champions South Africa the week before, a game they knew they should have won, but Gatland added: "*We could not fault the effort, passion and commitment (against the Springboks) and we have simply told the players we are looking for the same again against Samoa***…"**

The anxiety shared by the travelling Welsh supporters, as well as the rest of us watching on television back home, was understandable.

After all, of the seven previous encounters, Wales had won four, while the hard-hitting Samoans had won three, derailing Welsh World Cup hopes in both 1991 and 1999.

However, Wales could take comfort from the fact that in the last two meetings since then, they had partly gained revenge – by an emphatic 50-6 margin in 2000 and 17-13 in 2009.

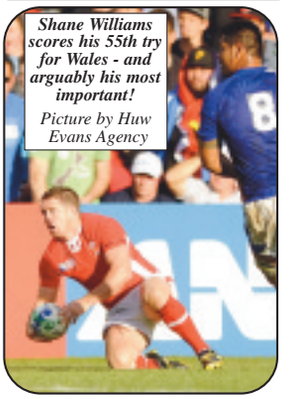
If further incentive was needed, it was surely provided by Ireland's inspired 15-6 victory over the fancied Australians on Saturday – in the process, showing just how to negate the southern hemisphere's physical threat, with unrelenting pressure-play up front for the full 80 minutes.

Moreover, that result opened up the mouth-watering prospect of a possible Wales versus Ireland quarter final clash – and who would dare bet on that outcome?

On Sunday, the Welsh camp knew everything hinged on overcoming a fired-up Samoan team confident of wrecking their World Cup hopes for the third time – and indeed, a nervy, error-strewn first half had the alarm bells ringing loudly.

First full back James Hook missed a penalty in the opening minute, then poor handling cost Wales a certain try, and Rhys Priestland, who otherwise had another sound game at outside half, sent a drop goal attempt sailing wide of the upright.

Meanwhile, it was the Samoans who were taking the game to their opponents up front, gaining success in both set piece and loose and looking far more dangerous in attack, as Welsh errors (both forced and unforced) mounted alarmingly.



Shane Williams scores his 55th try for Wales - and arguably his most important!
Picture by Huw Evans Agency

The pressure inevitably told with a typically rugged converted try, to add to Samoa's earlier penalty – and Wales came out for the second half 6-10 down, with the injured James Hook, who had kicked two penalties, replaced by Leigh Halfpenny – and knowing that they had just 40 minutes to rescue their World Cup 2011 campaign.

Almost immediately, Priestland reduced the margin to one point with a penalty and then edged his team 12-10 ahead with a second penalty, as superior Welsh fitness began to tell, forcing the tiring Samoans into errors of their own.

Even so, the game still swung in the balance until Welsh talisman, Shane Williams, took a hand, popping up to finish off an impressive breakaway move begun by Halfpenny, after a basketball pass by centre Jonathan Davies had gone astray.

With the try unconverted and the score at 17-10, Wales knew the battle wasn't over yet and for the remaining five minutes had to withstand a desperate all-out effort by Samoa, who simply refused to throw in the towel.

It may not have been a classic, except in terms of the raw courage and physical commitment shown by both sides, but nevertheless, it was an absolutely vital win that has kept Wales in the competition – and in the short term, that was all that counted.

In the long term, the result may well have a deeper psychological significance for a young, developing Wales team that have fallen short so many times when victory was within their grasp,

They have now broken the hold seemingly exerted over them by Samoa on the big stage – and after the disappointment of doing everything but win against world champions South Africa, they have shown that they *do* have the mental strength to protect a slender lead and close a game down in tight situations.

This invaluable lesson should stand them in good stead for their remaining Pool D games.

With it (hopefully) will come in due course, the absolute self-belief, epitomised by the All Blacks' ruthless mindset, that is critical for any lasting success on the world stage.

Starting with Namibia next week, followed by their other World Cup nemesis, Fiji, they will need to take the field *expecting*, rather than hoping to win, as was so often the case with other Welsh teams in recent years.

This talented side now have a supreme opportunity to prove to the world that after so many false dawns, Welsh rugby is truly back – and that inconsistency could at last be a thing of the past.

It is time for them to finally start believing!

Barry RFC triumph over Llandaff North...
AND ALSO MANAGE TO CONQUER THE ELEMENTS!

AT a wet and windy Reservoir Field on Saturday, Barry First XV entertained Llandaff North in a league fixture.

Barry were once again forced into changes, but welcomed back Owain Brown and Rhys Hardy for their first games of the season.

Playing up the slope, and into the wind and rain, Barry made clear their intentions by keeping the ball in hand as much as possible and playing a tight game – just what was required in the conditions.

However, when the opportunity came to open play up they took it, and a good threequarter move nearly brought a chance for Provis, who unluckily had the ball knocked from his grasp.

Llandaff were themselves making use of the elements, and from a long downfield clearance Barry were penalised to give the visitors a chance to take the lead, which they duly took.

Barry were still taking the game to the visitors and had the chance to equalise following an infringement by Llandaff, the kick just passing the outside of the posts.

The livewire Barry back row were beginning to disrupt Llandaff possession, which caused the visitors to kick more than they would have liked.

However from a long clearance Barry lost the lineout and found themselves under intense pressure close to the line.

A huge effort from the forwards prevented Llandaff from crossing the line.

Barry regained territory and following quick breaks by Lee and Hardy, began to attack at every opportunity.

These forays, coupled with good defence, gave Barry a slight dominance as half-time approached.

The greasy ball was causing problems for defenders, and as the ball went loose from a Llandaff player, Lee and Hadfield hacked through for the latter to win the chase for the touchdown.

The try was converted by Cummings to give Barry a well deserved 7-3 halftime lead.

Now playing with the elements, Barry were immediately on the attack from the kick off and, following a good forward drive, it was O'Sullivan who appeared with the ball for a fine try, converted by Cummings.

Using the elements sensibly, Barry were able to defend successfully as Llandaff fought to get back in the game, and clever kicking by Hardy could well have given Barry further scores had the bounce been kinder.

Barry made a couple of substitutions, with Adams and Bowdich coming on as the game entered its later stages, and despite huge efforts by the visitors to get back in the game, they were in control.

Evans reeplaced Gee at hooker as Barry made further forays downfield, but at this stage the greasy ball was causing problems for both teams and the game petered out, with Barry well deserving their 14-6 win.

On a day when conditions were totally unsuited to open rugby, Barry must be complimented for a fine team performance, one in which at last they got it tactically right on the day and reaped the rewards.

A final vote of thanks to the brave supporters who watched the game throughout in the wind and rain; still it might have been worse – they could have been golfing!

AJ

Sully make hard work of win

SULLY travelled to Cwmcarn Utd and slugged out a 17-10 victory – which should have been more.

Yet again Sully started off well, putting all their hard work from training into practice and Lewis Hughes went over after six minutes.

However Sports then made hard work of it, not getting the rub of the green at decision time.

They continued to mount attack after attack, failing at the last pass, but some excellent cover tackling and turning defence into attack saw Dave Stillman cross for a text book move. Cwmcarn then added a few old heads to the pitch and managed to mount a few attacks, but Sports dug deep in defence.

The Sports lineout worked well and they managed to steal a few as well, but their defence couldn't hold out all afternoon and Cwmcarn crossed for scores of their own.

With the score all square at 10-10, both sides threw everything at each other.

Sports dug deep and showed some excellent grit and spirit and again mounted a superb attack, with backs and forwards linking well, Matt Phillips grabbing the score; Dave Stillman converted for 17-10.

Team: Jamie Griffith, Anthony Wakefield, Ismael Yasin, Michael Angove (captain), Jody Velda, Alex Szuchnik, Tom Sloman, Dean Russell, Jason Evans, Matthew George, Adam Wheeler, John Dimond, Grantley Harris, Matthew Phillips, Dave Stillman, Lewis Hughes, Wayne Jones, Stuart Morgan, Nathan Taylor.

Training takes place Monday and Wednesday nights at Sully Sports Ground at 6.30pm; all are welcome.

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